LIAR GAME
ライアーゲーム
GAME VI
shinobu kaitani
presents
甲斐谷忍
VI
YJ
ヤングジャン
YJC
LIAR GAME
ライアーゲーム
VI
甲斐谷忍
集英社

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The drawn-out battle of wits continues as the LIAR GAME's third round nears the endgame.
Yokoya, suspecting that a traitor is within his team's ranks, coerces team members into playing his "Confession Game," which craftily pulls out the truth.
Akiyama's brilliant, table-turning strategy is made publicly bare...
And, on the final day of this game, Yokoya makes a decisive move to ensure his victory!!
Is there any way out for the cornered Southern Country!?
Packed with psychological warfare that won't fail to deliver, the "Contraband Game" arc comes to its conclusion!!

LIAR GAME⑥ 甲斐谷 忍

LIAR GAME❶ ⑨ ……甲斐谷 忍
ONE OUTS(全19巻) ……甲斐谷 忍

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仮面ティーチャー❶ ④ ……藤沢とおる
ひみつ戦隊メモイダー ……藤沢とおる
カジテツ王子❶—④ ……向浦宏和
べしゃり暮らし❶ ④ ……森田まさのり
TOKYO GRAFFITI❶ ⑨ ……井上三太
ワタシハペット❶ ……仙道ますみ
秀吉でござる!!❶ ……たなかかなこ
ヘタコイ❶ ……中野純子
ラッキーセブンスター❶ ……橘 賢一
十字架の魔術師❶ ……岡崎 圭
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VI

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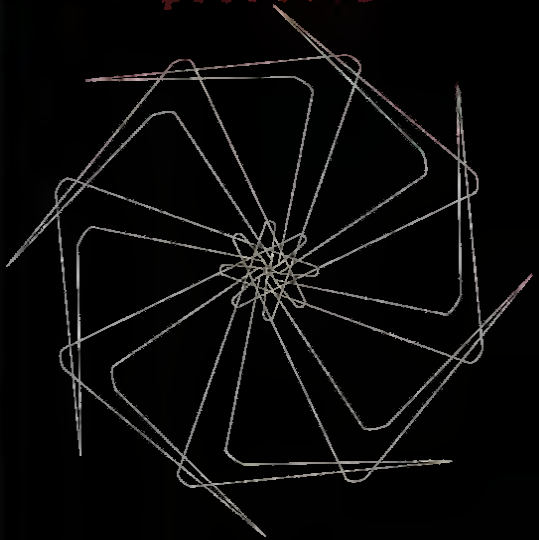
presents



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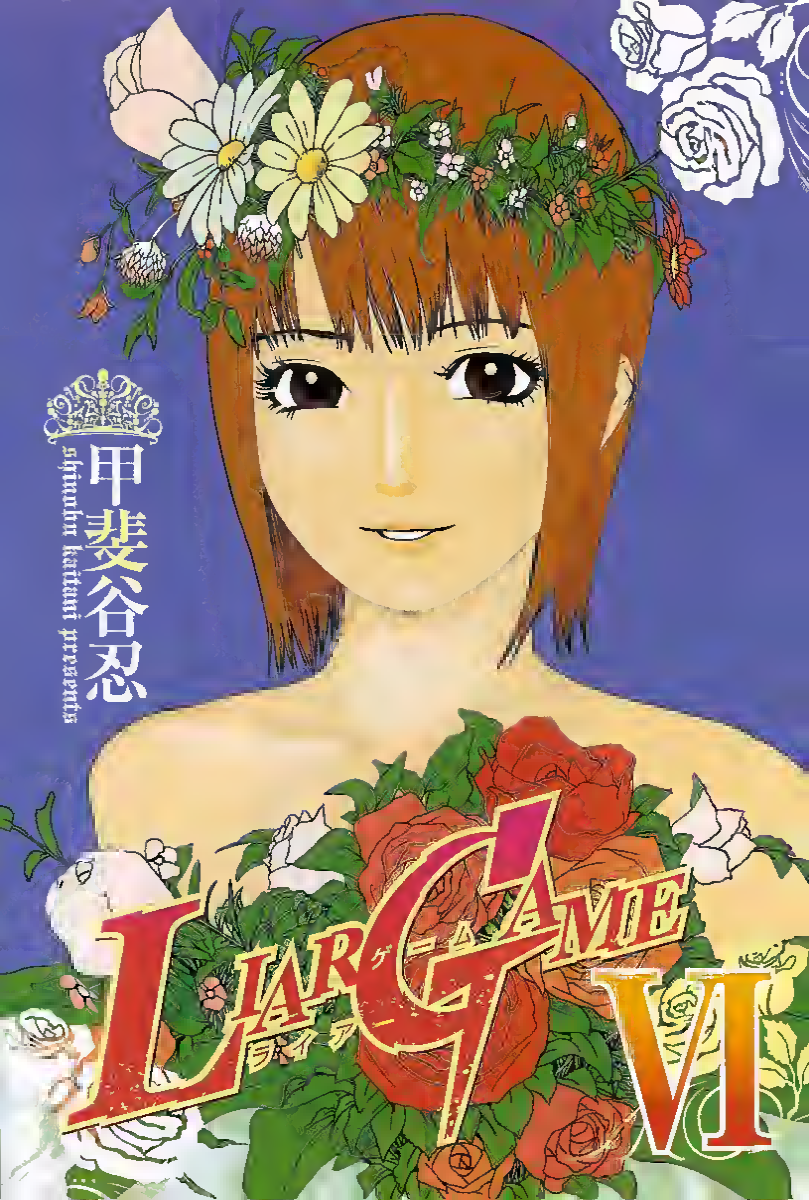
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LIAR-GAME

shinobu pres

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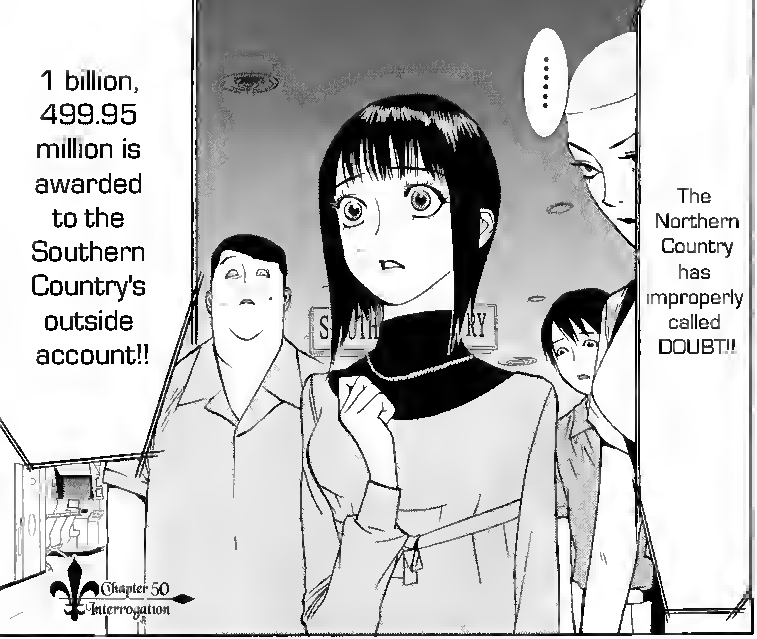
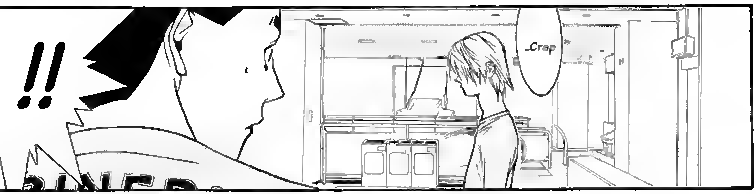
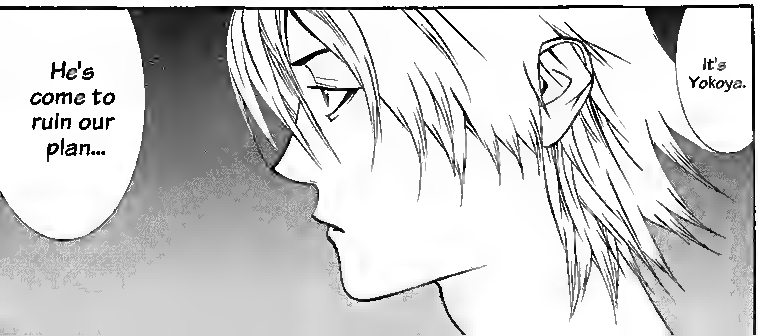

1 billion, 499.95 million is awarded to the Southern Country's outside account!!
.....
The Northern Country has improperly called DOUBT!!
Chapter 50 Interrogation

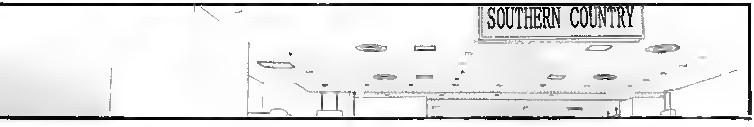

!!
Crap

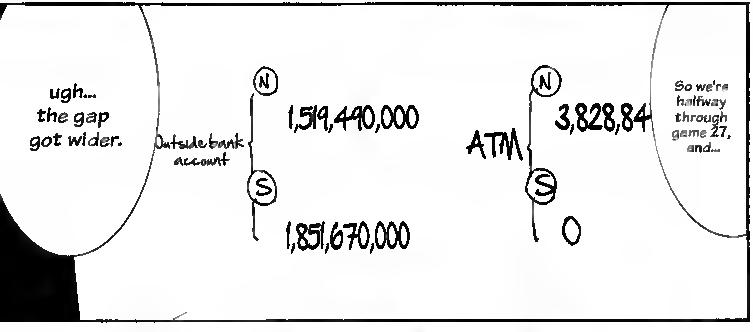

He's come to ruin our plan...
It's Yokoya.

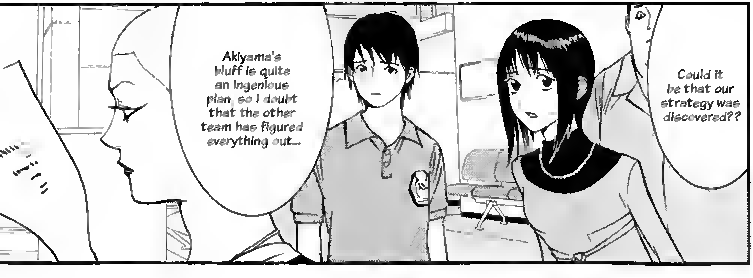
Chapter 50
Interrogation

LIAR GAME
ライアーゲーム

It may only be a matter of time before he sees through the whole scope of his plan.
While Yokoya hasn't yet discovered Akyama's bluff
Hmm I suppose that's because they were a bit too aggressive in their tactics.
Hou... Yokoya took action to stop the Southern team's strategy

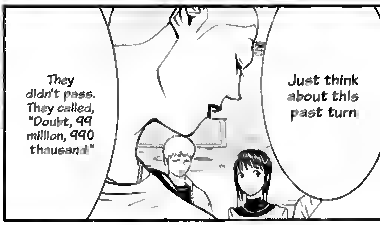

SOUTHERN COUNTRY


ugh... the gap got wider.
Outside bank account
N
1,519,440,000
S
1,851,670,000
ATM
N
3,828,84
S
0
So we're halfway through game 27, and...


Akiyama's bluff is quite an ingenious plan, so I doubt that the other team has figured everything out...
Could it be that our strategy was discovered??

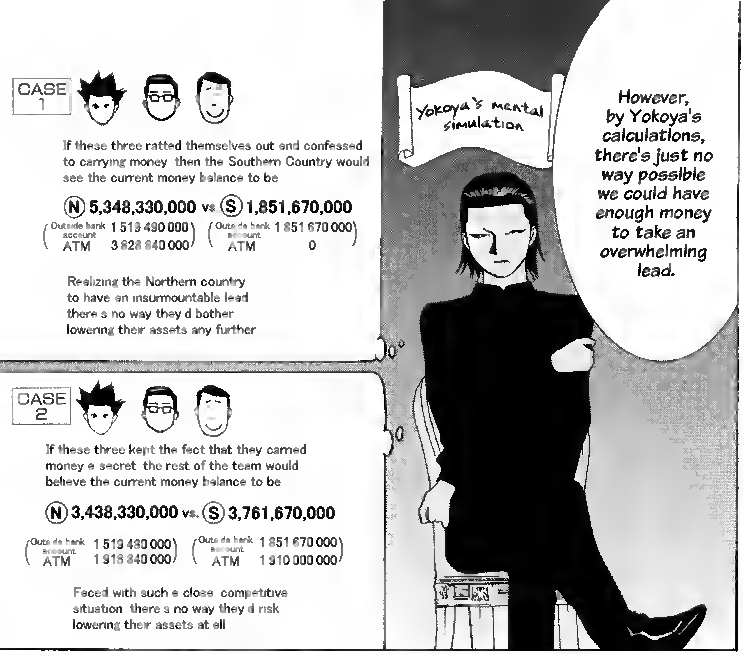
But one thing's for sure: The North has definitely realized we're acting on the basis of some sort of plan.

I mean, had we carried less than 100 million, such as... 90 million, that money would have been added to their total.
That was a very risky move.


They didn't pass. They called, "Doubt, 99 million, 990 thousand."
Just think about this past turn

Yes... and just as he expected, we carried 100 million, confirming Yokoya's suspicions
Then, you mean that they've realized we're intentionally trying to lose by lowering our score.

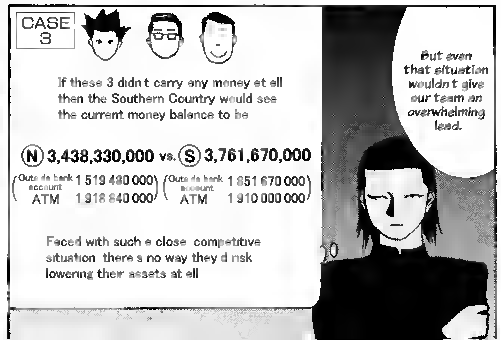
They're confident they have the assets to claim certain victory."
"There can only be one reason why"
With those suspicions confirmed, Yokoya is likely thinking, "Why is the Southern Country intentionally trying to lose?"

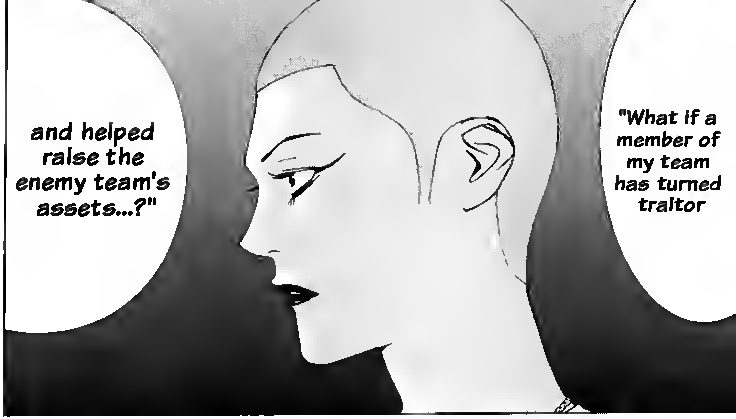

CASE 1
If these three ratted themselves out and confessed to carrying money then the Southern Country would see the current money balance to be
(N) 5,348,330,000 vs (S) 1,851,670,000
(Outside bank account 1 519 490 000) ATM 3 828 840 000
(Outside bank account 1 851 670 000) ATM 0
Realizing the Northern country to have an insurmountable lead there s no way they d bother lowering their assets any further
Yokoya's mental simulation
However, by Yokoya's calculations, there's just no way possible we could have enough money to take an overwhelming lead.
CASE 2
If these three kept the fact that they carried money a secret the rest of the team would believe the current money balance to be
(N) 3,438,330,000 vs. (S) 3,761,670,000
(Outside bank account 1 519 490 000) ATM 1 918 840 000
(Outside bank account 1 851 670 000) ATM 1 910 000 000
Faced with such a close competitive situation there s no way they d risk lowering their assets at all

"What if these 3 didn't carry the money at all...?"

he'll arrive at another possibility... which is...
If Yokoya thinks harder,

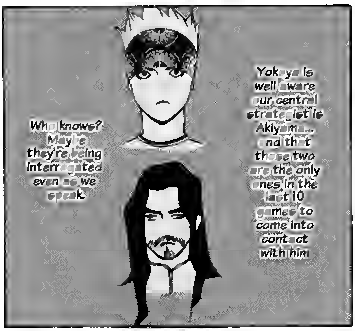
he'll arrive at only one possible explanation... and that's...
If Yokoya thinks harder,

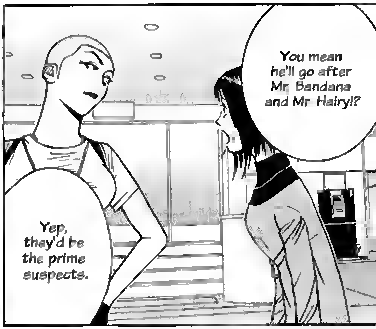

CASE 3
If these 3 didn t carry any money at all then the Southern Country would see the current money balance to be
(N) 3,438,330,000 vs. (S) 3,761,670,000
(Outside bank account 1 519 490 000) ATM 1 918 840 000
(Outside bank account 1 851 670 000) ATM 1 910 000 000
Faced with such a close competitive situation there s no way they d risk lowering their assets at all
But even that situation wouldn't give our team an overwhelming lead.


"What if a member of my team has turned traitor
and helped raise the enemy team's assets...?"

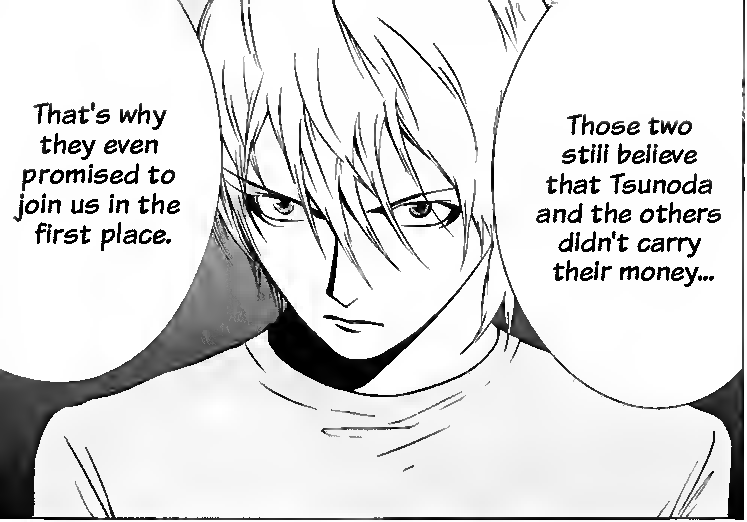
Because once Yokoya takes this train of thought,
he'll start to wonder who the traitor could be...

And we'd be screwed
Ah... he'd be just about on the mark!

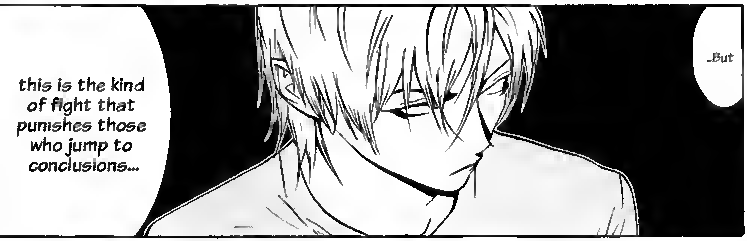

Yokoya is well aware our central strategist is Akiyama... and that these two are the only ones in the last 10 games to come into contact with him
Who knows? Maybe they're being interrogated even as we speak.


You mean he'll go after Mr Bandana and Mr Hairy!?
Yep, they'd be the prime suspects.

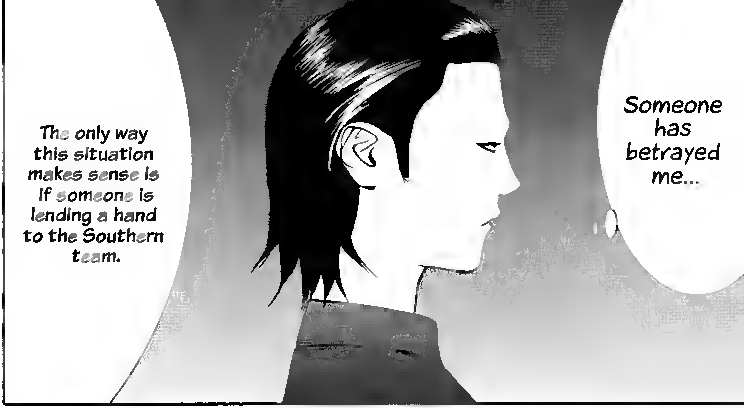
What do we do...??
Our strategy will be revealed!!
No - there's no way it will.

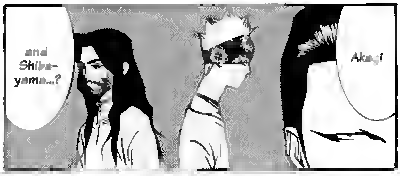

That's why they even promised to join us in the first place.
Those two still believe that Tsunoda and the others didn't carry their money...

I see...
Since Yokoya's got them shaking in their boots, I can't imagine they'd let that happen
So in effect, if our strategy is exposed, they'll have to openly admit that they failed to carry out their assignments.

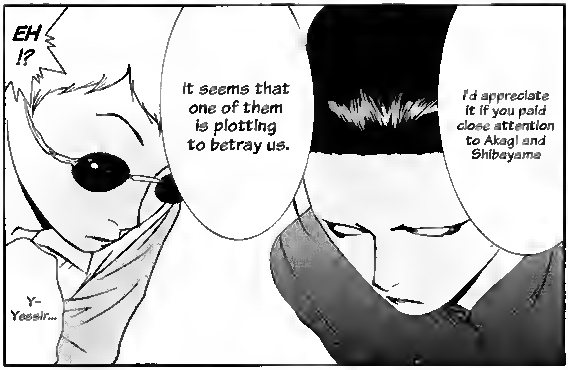

this is the kind of fight that punishes those who jump to conclusions...
...But

NORTHERN COUNTRY

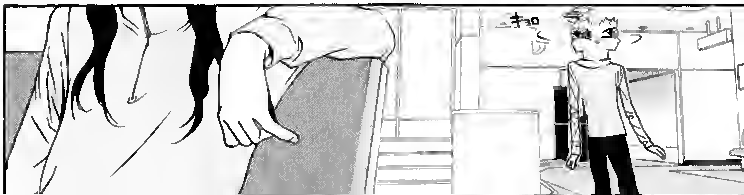

Someone has betrayed me...
The only way this situation makes sense is if someone is lending a hand to the Southern team.


Akagi
and Shibayama...?

...Then, the prime suspects would be


EH !?
It seems that one of them is plotting to betray us.
I'd appreciate it if you paid close attention to Akagi and Shibayama
Y-Yessir...

Do you have a moment...?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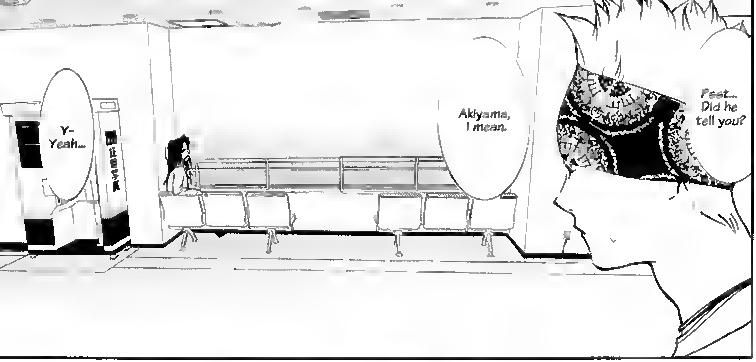
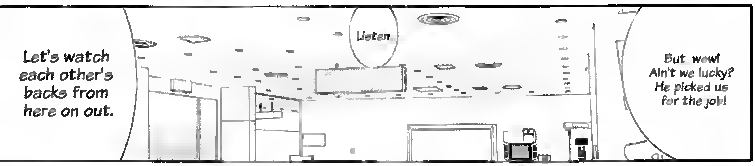
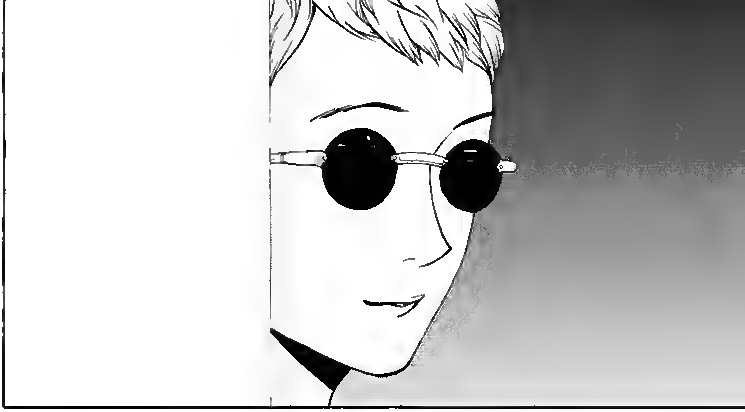
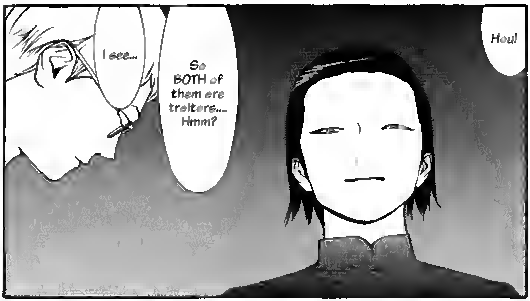

Y-Yeah...
Akiyama, I mean.
Feet... Did he tell you?

You even need to ask? Knowing this side is sinking, who wouldn't jump ship?
So, he invited you to their side, right?

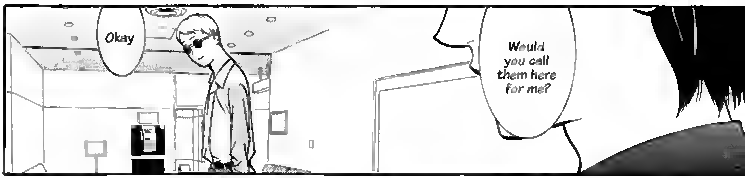

Let's watch each other's backs from here on out.
Listen.
But wow! Ain't we lucky? He picked us for the job!

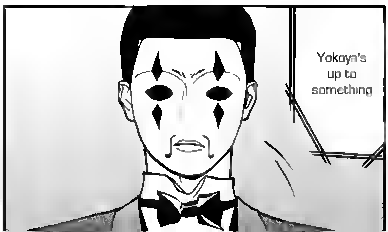
Alright!
I'll do anything I can to lend a hand.
If anything comes up, lemme know right away

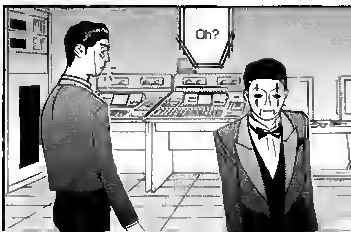


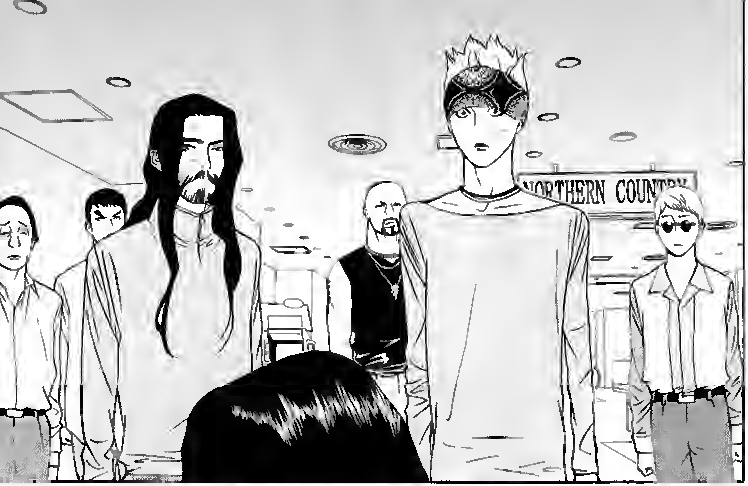

I see...
So BOTH of them are traitors... Hmm?

Heu!


Okay
Would you call them here for me?


Yokoyn's up to something

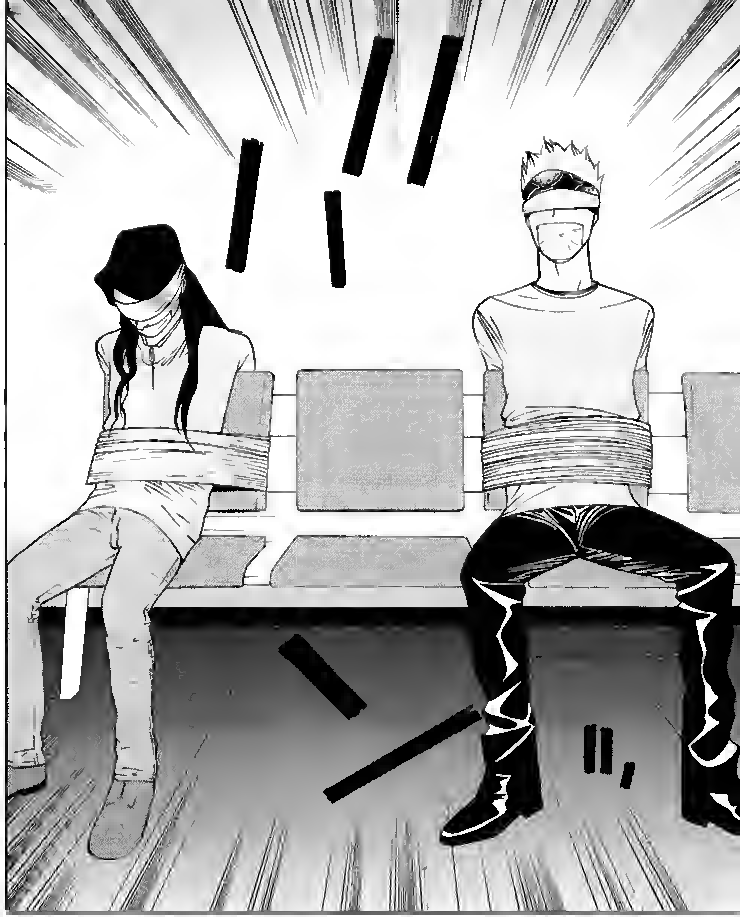

Oh?

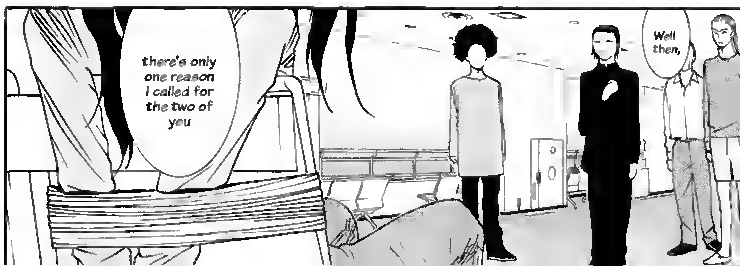

NORTHERN COUNTRY

Ah...
A~
What... is it?

STOP IT!!
WHAT THE HELL !?

Yessir.
Please blind and gag them for me.
EH !?!

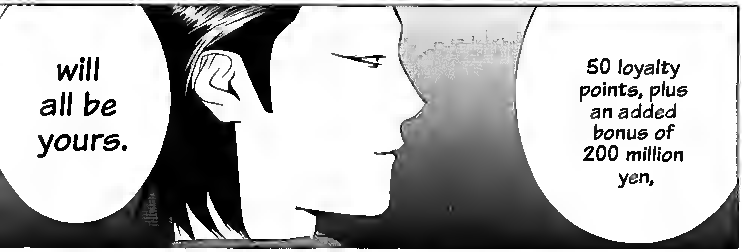


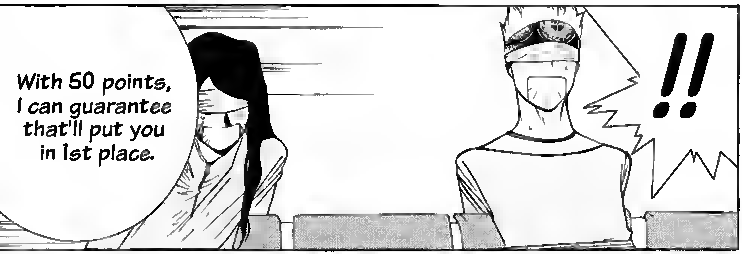

there's only one reason I called for the two of you
Well then,

It just so happens that someone has claimed the two of you are collaborating with the Southern team.
!!
!!
Is this allegation true?
.....
...Ah, silly me. It's not like you'd obediently admit to it.
You no doubt expect a very heavy penalty for doing so.
...However...
It all depends on your point of view

I will reward your honorable deeds.
if you bravely admit your guilt, and then turn this opportunity around into a chance to entrap the Southern Country instead,
..Which leads us to my next topic.
Hee hee hee.
.....
.....
One I like to call...
We're going to play a little game.
the "CONFESSION GAME."

I'll give you 10 minutes. If you decide to tell me what you're doing with the Southern Country,
!?


will all be yours.
50 loyalty points, plus an added bonus of 200 million yen,

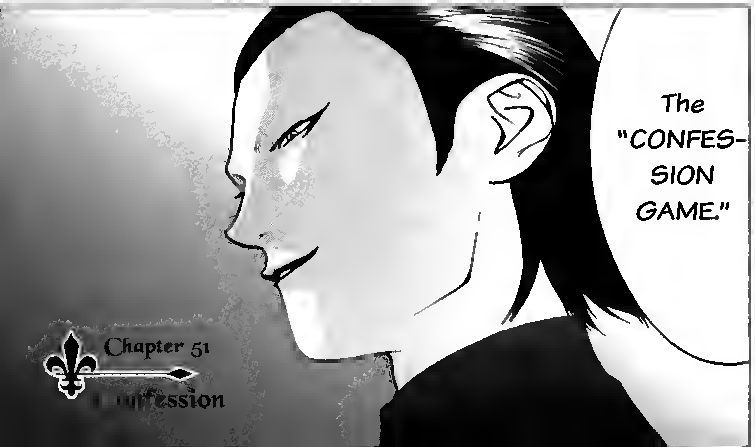

With 50 points, I can guarantee that'll put you in 1st place.
!!

...But
That kind of money can free you from this game.
Not to mention that 200 million reward... it's a big deal.

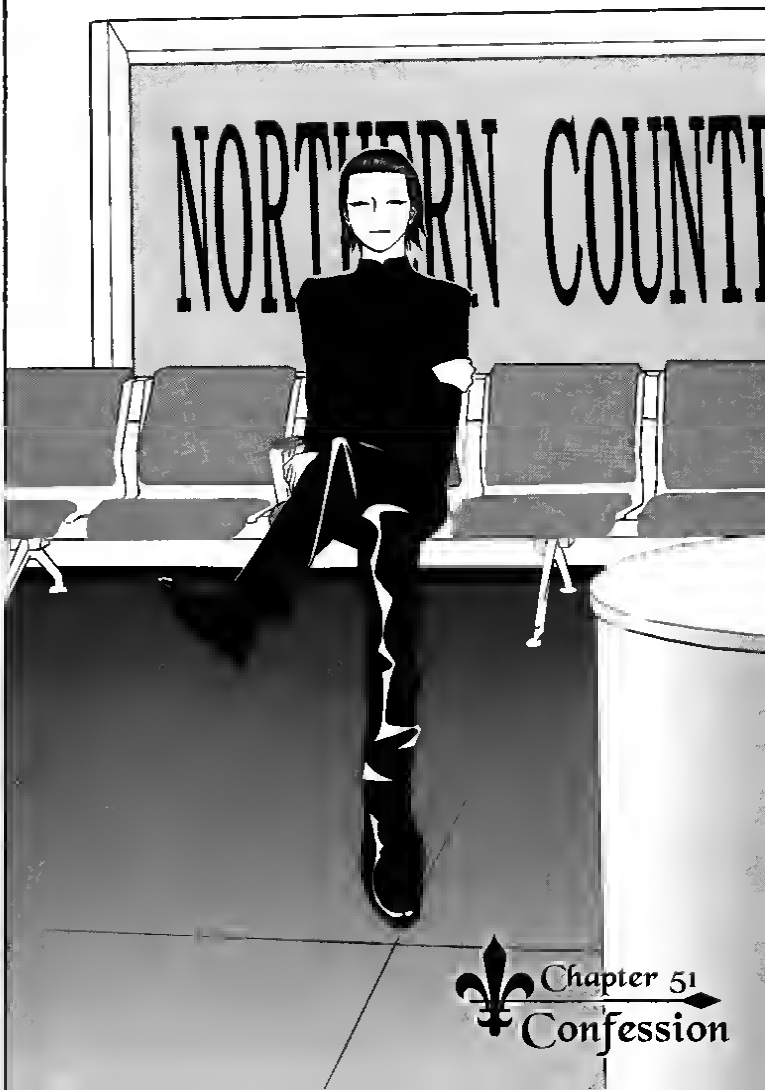
only one of you can benefit from this gracious offer.
The first person to stand up and confess, that is.
Tha one who fails to confess will suffer a penalty of 100 loyalty points.
Heeheehee... Without a doubt that difference
will plunge you
to a rank lower than anyone else.
If, perhaps, neither of you confesses within 10 minutes...
Both of you will be deemed innocent and we will not suspect you any further

……
……
Any questions?
That's all for the rules.
Furthermore...
It must be because he's extremely confident it won't take that long
But I don't understand why Yokoya set a limit of 10 minutes. If they thought there was no end in sight, someone would eventually confess
Heeheeheel He's using the "Prisoner's Dilemma." I see
that the act of helping one another is nothing more than a distant dream
Yokoya no doubt wishes to publicly demonstrate before the Northern players
I wonder how long they'll last?
Heeheeheel Those two

……
If you've mustered up the courage to confess, raise your right leg as a signal.
……
Ready.
Okay, gentlemen, let's start the game.
カチッ
BEGIN.



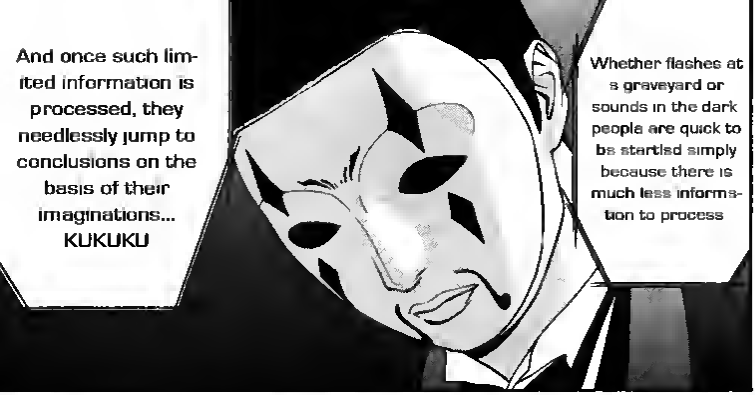
Chapter 51
Confession



Chapter 51
Confession

UNITS PER HOUR
BEGIN.
Ready --
You have ten minutes --
I'm trying to move, but I'm bound hand and foot!!
I can't communicate with Shibayama at all!!
Damn it! It's impossible!!
What's that sound!?
Huh?
THUMP
I can't do ANYTHING... Shit!!

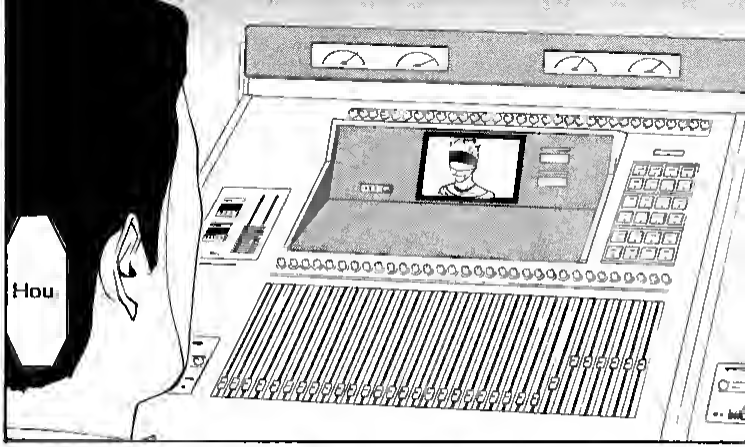
What am I scared of? This thing's just gotten started!
Nah, it can't be.
No...
Was that Shibayama giving the signal?
Now the sounds have stopped ...?
Huh ...?
...
What was that?
Where's Shibayama? Yokoya?
Something's going on around around me, but what?!
What the hell is happening out there?
Humans are used to receiving ample amounts of information with their 5 senses but when that information is severely restricted they fall into great fear
He bound their eyes and mouths, leaving only their ears free
Or if they hear sounds while it's dark out, they may assume a criminal is closing in on them.
Some might claim to see "ghosts" or "spirits" when they catch sight of a flickering figure in a graveyard.
Yokoya is heartless, isn't he?
KU KU KU


And once such limited information is processed, they needlessly jump to conclusions on the basis of their imaginations... KUKUKU
Whether flashes at a graveyard or sounds in the dark people are quick to be startled simply because there is much less information to process

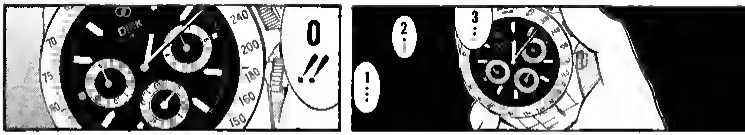
Look, if he thinks it through, he'll see that Yokoya's offer isn't worth it.
No worries!! That's not possible!
What is there to be afraid of?
Calm down...
Calm down!
The reality is that our chances of winning are slim to none!!
Sure, Yokoya mentioned 200 million yen and 50 loyalty points, but those things have no value unless the North wins!!
The possibility that Shibayama betrayed me?

we'll be able to escape from this game un-harmed!!
But... if we join the South, they're sure to win... and then
it'll be fine
That's why there's nothing to be scared of
Shibeyama's got to be able to realize this!
Wait...
...
Whether or not Yokoya can find a plan for this situation isn't for certain.
... Wait, I can't be so sure.
And besides ...
I'd get out of this game with a HUGE profit!!
I wouldn't just escape unharmed,
Yokoya is a smart guy. If I were to confess.. if the South's plan got out
He'd probably use it as a stepping stone to come up with a counter-plan.

If I confess,
that'd mean ruining Shibayama in the process.
Aah... What am I thinking?!
I'm the worst...
I won't hesitate anymore.
I'll believe in them!
Deep down, I knew... that even in a brutal game like this, there had to be people who could remain honest...


Hou

It appears he'll last the entire 10 minutes.
he's not confess-ing.
Amaz-ing.


0
!!
2
!
3

Right!
That's time! Please remove his restraints.

WE HELD OUT!! WE HELD OUUUUU UUUT!
WE DID IIIIIIIT!!!
Enjoying ourselves, aren't we?
KU KU KU
!?
Huh?
See that, Shibaya-mall
We held...

In under one minute, I might add...
Mr. Shibayama confessed right off the bat.

Fufuful We took him aside, and he volunteered everything
!!

!!

And there you have it.
KU KU KU
I heard you making strange sounds, so I thought YOU had already sold me out...
Don't look at me
Y-YOU... TOLD THEM EVERY-THING!?

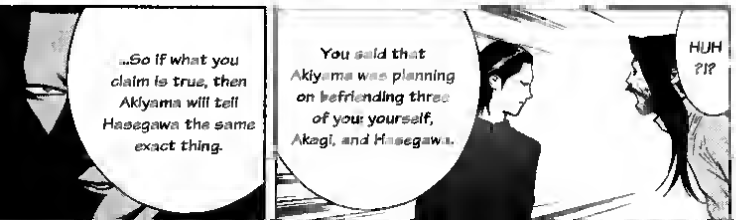
Humans are the kind of creatures that will always betray one another.
Trusting in one another, helping one another out... such things are mere illusions.

So I'm getting 50 points just like you promised, right?

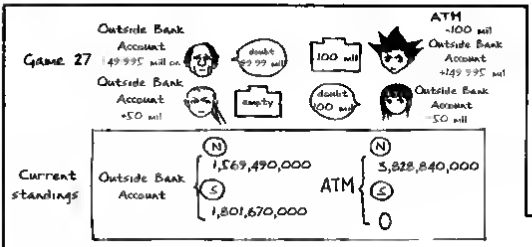
...No...!!!

...No.
...

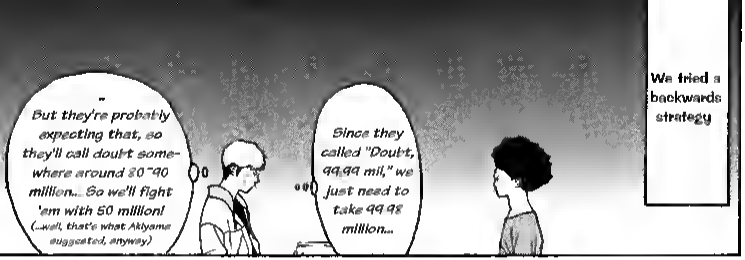
No.
After all, how do I know if your confession is the truth or not?

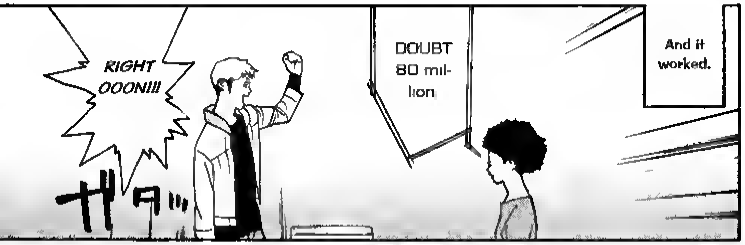

...So if what you claim is true, then Akiyama will tell Hasegawa the same exact thing.
You said that Akiyama was planning on befriending three of you: yourself, Akagi, and Hasegawa.
HUH ?!?

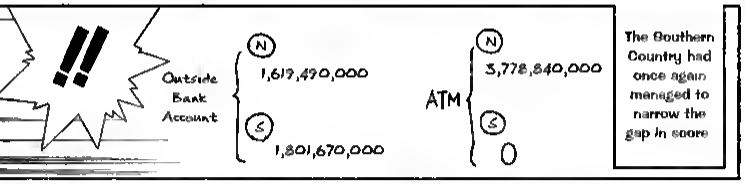
If Hasegawa's story agrees with yours, then I will believe you and award you the points.
I will send Hasegawa to the customs office next turn.



So, returning to the game, the Northern team had managed to thwart our team's attack. But...


We tried a backwards strategy
Since they called "Doubt, 99.99 mil," we just need to take 99.98 million...
But they're probably expecting that, so they'll call doubt somewhere around 80~90 million... So we'll fight 'em with 50 million! (...well, that's what Akiyama suggested, anyway)

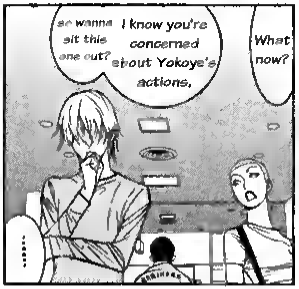

And it worked.
DOUBT 80 million
RIGHT OOON!!!

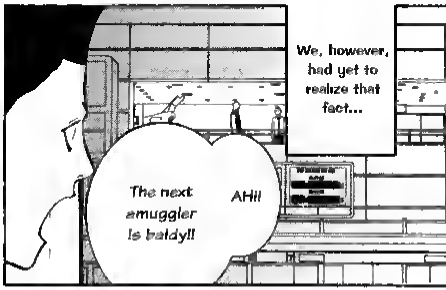

The Southern Country had once again managed to narrow the gap in score
ATM
N 3,778,840,000
S 0
Outside Bank Account
N 1,619,490,000
S 1,801,670,000

They fell for it!!
Maybe we'll be able to turn our score around on the next turn!
Hmm ...

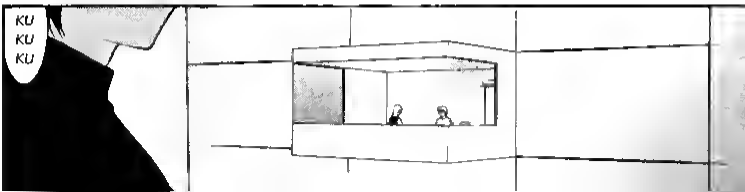
That was...
a little TOO easy.

The fact that things went too easily was to be expected, since at the time, the Northern Country had already discovered our plan through their "Confession Game."
We managed to win, so why worry about it?
I was sure Yokoya would've pulled something else..

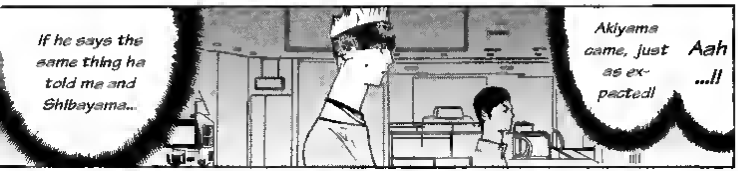

...
so wanna sit this one out?
I know you're concerned about Yokoye's actions,
What now?


We, however, had yet to realize that fact...
AH!!
The next smuggler is baldy!!

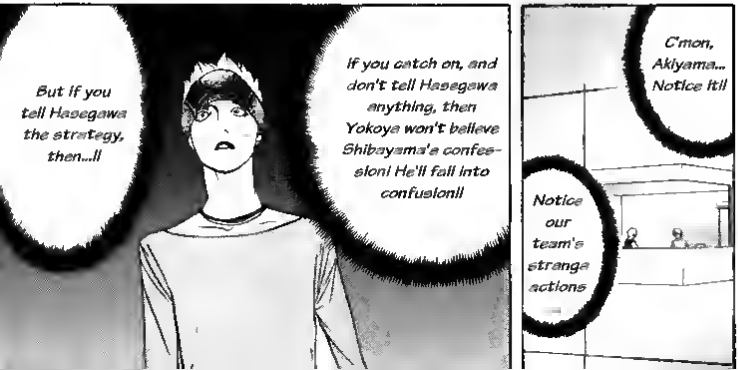
I'll go.
Nah,


KU
KU
KU

Good of you to drop by Akiyama...

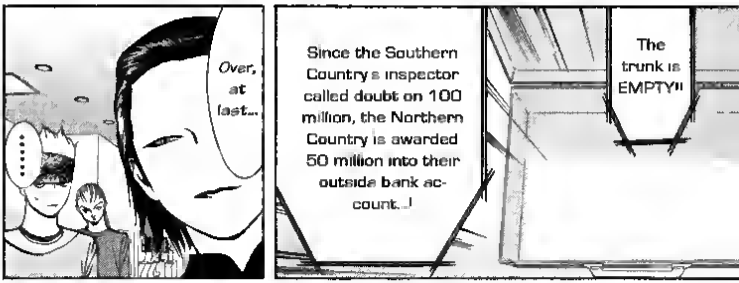

If he says the same thing he told me and Shibayama...
Akiyama came, just as expected!
Aah ...!!

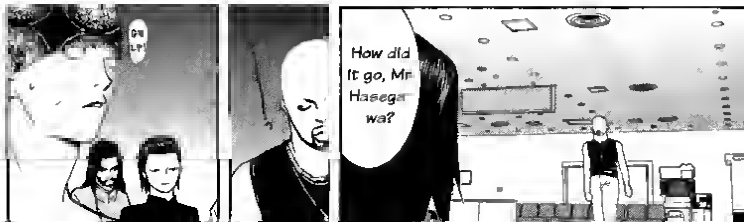
will be completely exposed!!
The Southern team's strategy


But if you tell Hasegawa the strategy, then...!!
If you catch on, and don't tell Hasegawa anything, then Yokoya won't believe Shibayama's confession! He'll fall into confusion!!
C'mon, Akiyama... Notice it!!
Notice our team's strange actions

You, me, AND Kanzaki Naoll
WE'RE SUNK!

And at last
A long conversation ensued in the customs office.


Over, at last...
.....
Since the Southern Country's inspector called doubt on 100 million, the Northern Country is awarded 50 million into their outside bank account...!
The trunk is EMPTY!!


How did it go, Mr. Hasegawa?

He approached me with the same exact offer!
Exactly like Shibayama said!
SWEET !!
T-Then about my points..??
Mr. Akagi, why the long face?
They're yours, naturally
I now know exactly what the Southern Country is after.
... With this,
KU KU KU.. I knew it...

You still have a chance to redeem yourself!
!!

I've got just the idea for how we can ruin the Southern Country.
And I'd like YOU

to handle the most important part of it!
.....

Chapter 52
Dirty Trick

I've got just the idea for how we can ruin the Southern Country,
and I'd like YOU

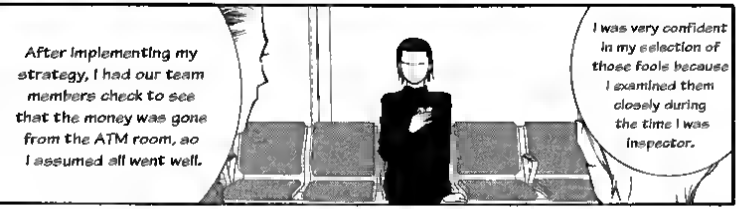
to handle the most important part!
!?

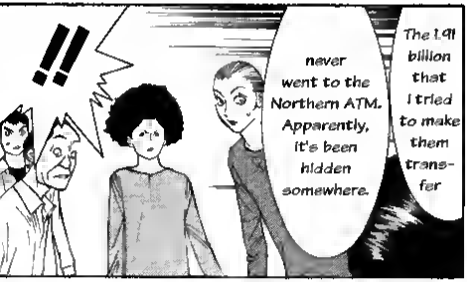
The others here still have no idea what the South was trying to do,
so I'll start the explanation from there.

W-Well... What's your plan..?
Before I answer that..

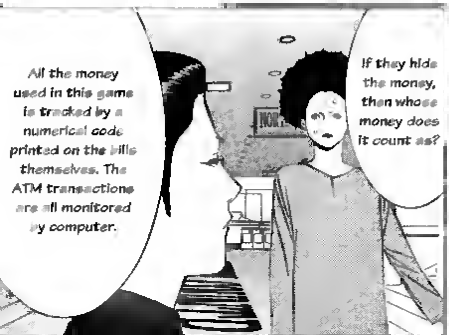
Gentlemen, as you well know,
I had a specific strategy for this game that we executed and that was...

the carefully selected
three stooges on the Southern team to transfer all 1.91 billion out of the Southern ATM for us
No. 3
No. 2


After implementing my strategy, I had our team members check to see that the money was gone from the ATM room, so I assumed all went well.
I was very confident in my selection of those fools because I examined them closely during the time I was inspector.


!!
never went to the Northern ATM. Apparently, it's been hidden somewhere.
The 1.91 billion that I tried to make them transfer

this plan somehow failed
But it seems...


All the money used in this game is tracked by a numerical code printed on the bills themselves. The ATM transactions are all monitored by computer.
If they hide the money, then whose money does it count as?

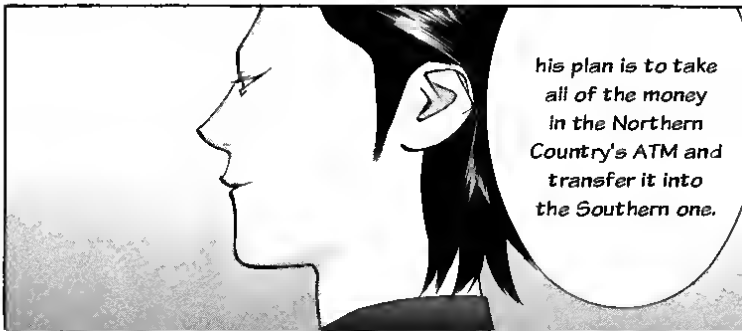
Hidden...!?
WHERE ?!?!
Who knows?

Outside Bank Account
Ⓝ 1,619,490,000
Ⓢ 1,801,670,000

ATM
Ⓝ 1,868,840,000
Ⓢ 1,910,000,000

this is the situation we face right now
In short,

To put it bluntly,
tried to entice these three players of ours to betray us
With this information, the Southern team's Akiyama



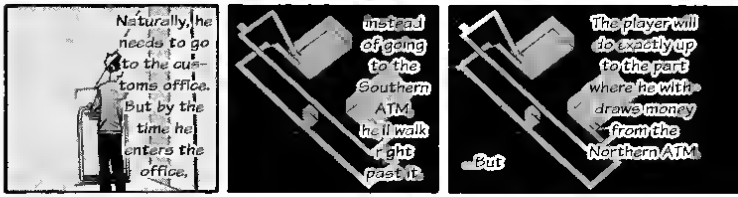
And those two shamelessly agreed to his terms
.....
Yes.
You mean he's trying to do the SAME THING we just did!?!
To do so, they could transfer all of their funds into Kanzaki Nao's account, for instance.
The Southern Country first creates an account that contains all of the money remaining in the Northern ATM
The way he plans to move the money is like this.
Akiyama responds, telling him where the hidden card is located.
pull the string hanging out of the N ATM
To signal it's turn, the smuggler would hold his card up to the glass pane
Only once it comes time for one of our three to smuggle would the hiding place be made known.
That could be anywhere in the hallway with the ATMs.
Then they take that player's card and hide it in a clever way so no one will find it
and deposits it into the Southern Country's ATM.
comes it over,
withdraws money from the ATM.
Obeying the directions, the smuggler finds the card

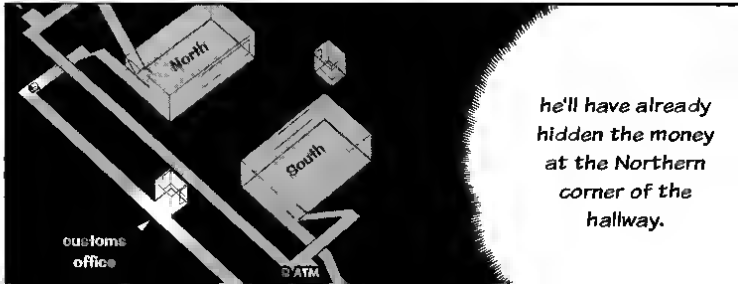
Thus completing his "double-cross" strategy
Then the smuggler heads right on into the customs office and hands the card back to Akiyama, who's waiting for him.
I can therefore conclude that's the very strategy the Southern Country will attempt to use.
It matches perfectly with Mr. Shibayama's earlier testimony, too
Uh-huh. That's exactly what Akiyama said.
... Did I get that right, Mr. Hasegawa?
KU KU KU
Where the heck could anyone hide that much money anyway..?
What a great idea to hide the 14 billion... but...
NORTH
COUN
Wow.. the Southern Country sure thought this out...
I believe there's a possibility Akiyama is pulling our leg.
You know.

and instead deposited all 1.91 billion of it just like we originally intended!?
What, are you implying they never hid the money
Eh?!
Yes.
That's why we've got to come up with a plan that protects us in the face of both possibilities
There is a strong enough chance that 1.91 billion could be secretly stashed away
That being said, we're talking about possibilities here.
The first thing we need to do...
Whether or not Akiyama's claim is valid doesn't concern us.
We're going to carry their money!?
WHAT!?!
No, no-.
is accept his offer.

and instead WE'LL hide the money this time!!
We'll PRETEND to carry their money

As for the details, here's how:
EEEEEEEE EEEEEH!?!


Naturally, he needs to go to the customs office. But by the time he enters the office,
instead of going to the Southern ATM, he'll walk right past it.
The player will do exactly up to the part where he withdraws money from the Northern ATM.
But


N ATM
North
South
customs office
S ATM
he'll have already hidden the money at the Northern corner of the hallway.

take the cart of bills into our country's territory, and the plan will be a success.

The moment the inspection is over, he'll exit the room as quickly as possible.

Upon entering the customs office, he'll return the card to Akiyama, appearing to have carried out the plan successfully.

Of course.

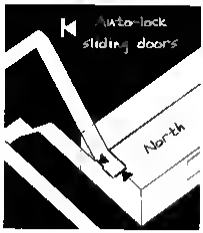
We can do that!? Seriously!?

!!

After all, it's impossible to hide upwards of 1.9 billion in the passageway itself. If they actually hid it, then it's only possible by the method I just described.

If not, then Akiyama's claim to have hidden 1.91 billion yen would be nothing more than a mere bluff.

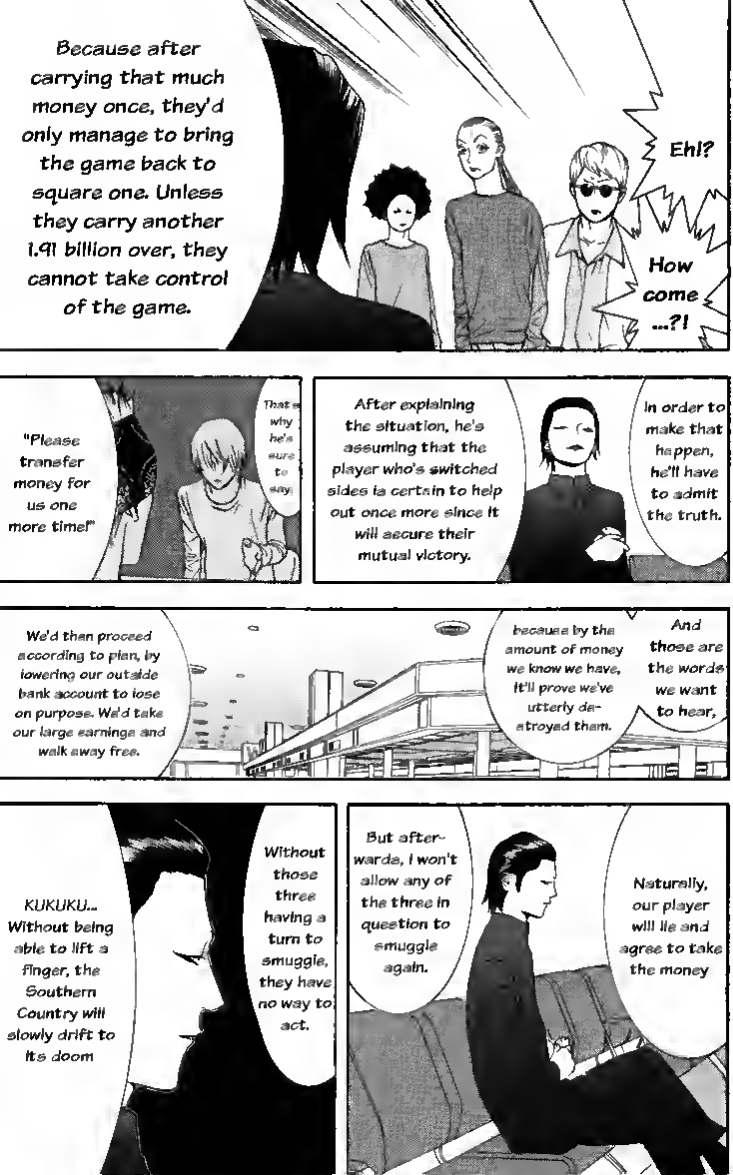
I came up with the idea to have three players carry money with this detail in mind

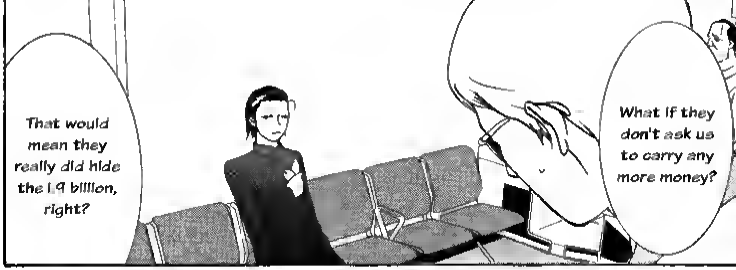


One of the basics of the Contraband Game's rules is the gate that automatically locks behind players. Without it, players would be able to enter and exit the hallway freely.

You're right!

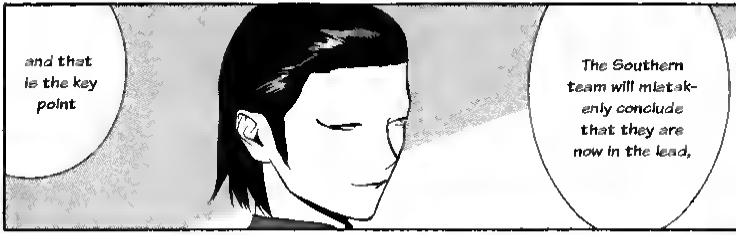
On first glance, it looks like physically moving money has no merit at all, but actually doing so can corner your enemies... THAT is this game's weakness.
Frankly, those gates are vital.
He's sharp!
KU KU KU
No, it is possible.
But isn't it impossible to tell that in the first place?
You said we need to consider both possibilities, whether Akiyama was telling the truth or not.
Um, Master Yokoya?
Akiyama will be forced to declare that his team deposited all 1.9 billion into the Northern ATM after that turn ends.
if he's lying,

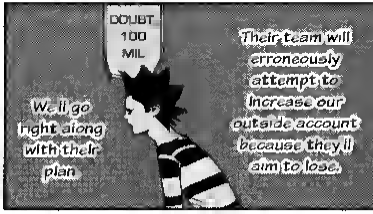

Because after carrying that much money once, they'd only manage to bring the game back to square one. Unless they carry another 1.91 billion over, they cannot take control of the game.
Eh!?
How come ...?!
"Please transfer money for us one more time!"
That is why he's sure to say.
After explaining the situation, he's assuming that the player who's switched sides is certain to help out once more since it will secure their mutual victory.
In order to make that happen, he'll have to admit the truth.
We'd then proceed according to plan, by lowering our outside bank account to lose on purpose. We'd take our large earnings and walk away free.
because by the amount of money we know we have, it'll prove we've utterly destroyed them.
And those are the words we want to hear,
KUKUKU... Without being able to lift a finger, the Southern Country will slowly drift to its doom
Without those three having a turn to smuggle, they have no way to act.
But afterwards, I won't allow any of the three in question to smuggle again.
Naturally, our player will lie and agree to take the money

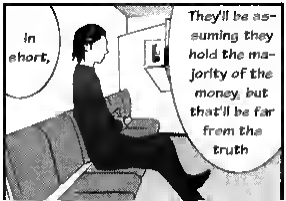


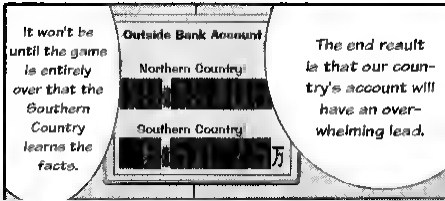
...However, outside bank account (N) 1,619,490,000 (S) 1,801,670,000 ATM (N) 1,868,840,000 (S) 1,910,000,000

Indeed. But since we will have hidden the same amount of money, our scores will still be very close.

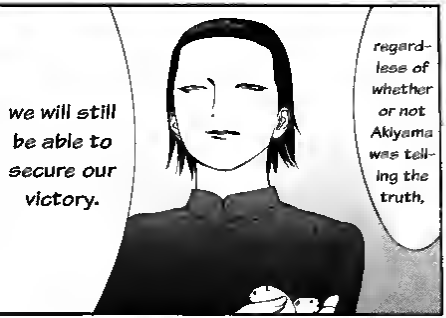



DOUBT 100 MIL
We'll go right along with their plan
Their team will erroneously attempt to increase our outside account because they'll aim to lose.



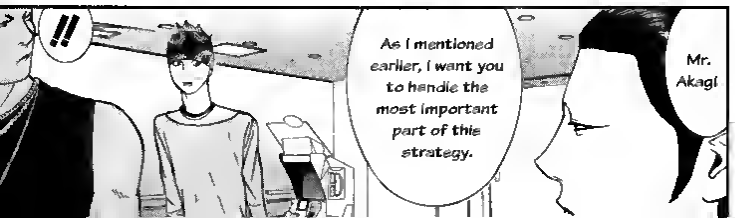

It won't be until the game is entirely over that the Southern Country learns the facts.
Outside Bank Account
Northern Country
Southern Country
万
The end result is that our country's account will have an overwhelming lead.

Although unable to walk away from the game, you gentlemen can use it to relieve much of your debt while proceeding to the next stage.
all of the added money in our outside account just means more earnings for us.

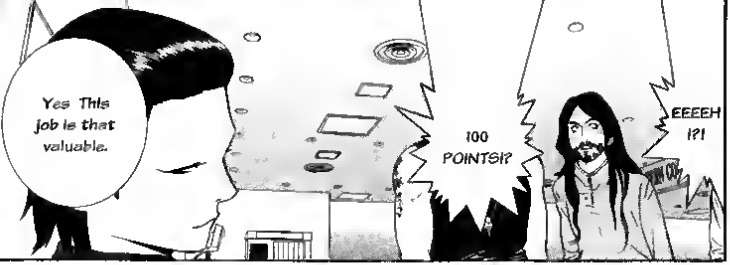

we will still be able to secure our victory.
regardless of whether or not Akiyama was telling the truth,

The core of my strategy is that by hiding money, the Southern Country will entirely misread the rest of the battle.
And

let's put this plan into action immediately.
Now then,
What a relief!
SOUTHERN COUNTRY
Wa-hoo!!


!!
As I mentioned earlier, I want you to handle the most important part of this strategy.
Mr. Akagi

I'd like you to go as our team's next smuggler... and also
bring us back the huge sum of money Akiyama is trying to make you carry without letting him find out, please.
NORTHERN COUNTRY
If you are able to successfully pull this off,
!!
As you might expect, that would spring you right up into last place.
not only will I remove the penalty from before, but I'll award you 100 loyalty points as well!


Yes. This job is that valuable.
100 POINTS!?
EEEEH !?!

I can survive!!

I can survive...

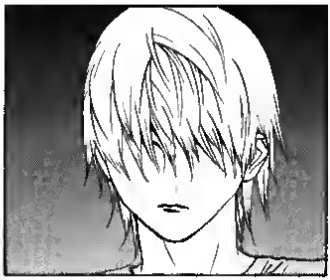
It will solidify our team's win, see?
If he successfully carries their money over,

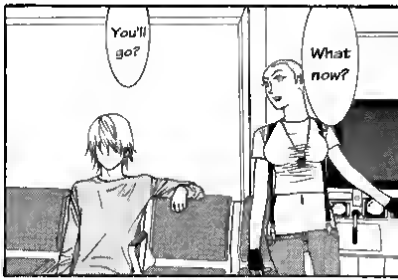
Would the Northern Country's smuggler please enter the gates and make their way to the Southern Country?
Moving along, we are now in Game 28!! It is the Northern Country's turn to smuggle!!

Ah!!

Good luck.

THEIR NEXT SMUGGLER IS BANDANA MAN!!

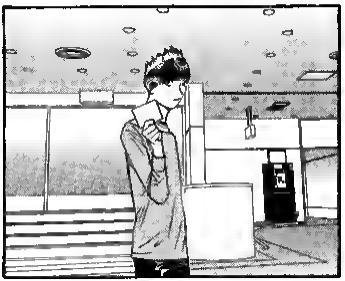



You'll go?
What now?

te hold up my card as a signal when it's my turn to smuggle.
When I met with Akiyama, he told me

In response, Akiyama is supposed to signal to me where he's hidden his card.

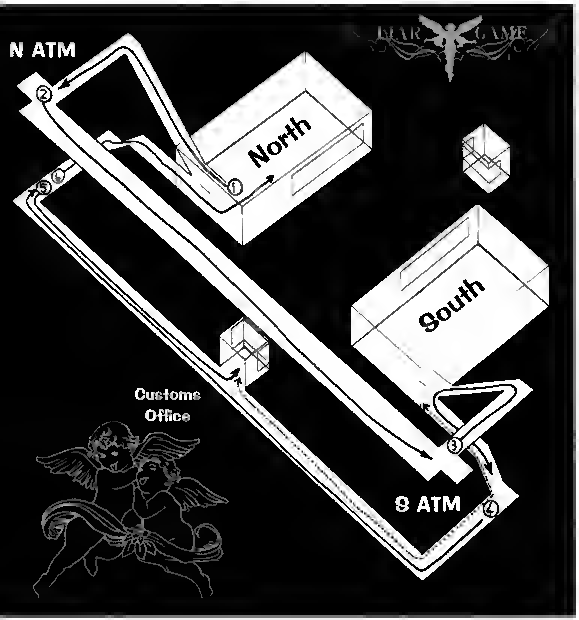
Huuu uh!?
Huh?



B-But ...
Hurry it up already!
What's the matter, Akagi?

THE SOUTH-ERN COUN-TRY
ISN'T TELLING ME WHERE THEY HID THEIR CARD!!!
What?

Yokoya's Counter-Strategy



1. A Northern smuggler heads to the Northern ATM. (Normally, he would have no business there.)
2. The smuggler locates a card selected by Akiyama and uses it to withdraw the huge sum of money.
3. The Southern Country believes he goes to the Southern ATM next, but he actually passes it.
4. In a way that Akiyama won't suspect, the smuggler carries the money all the way to the North side.
   (The dotted arrow depicted to the left indicates Akiyama's route as inspector.)
5. The smuggler enters the customs office as if none of these happened and acts in front of Akiyama as if the plan was a success.
6. Finally, he takes the money right into the Northern Country, hiding it out of sight. The guarantees the money will belong to them.

Chapter 53
Suspicion

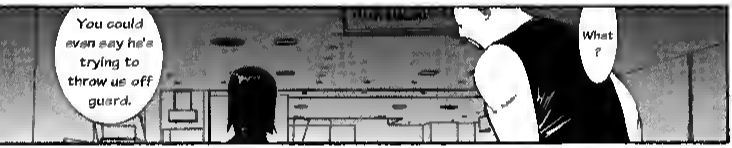
LIAR GAME
ライアーゲーム

SAY WHAT ?!!
HAAH ?!

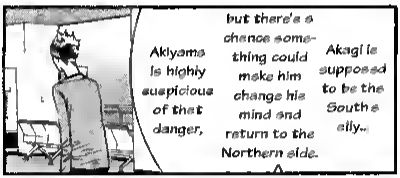
What should I do ..!?
Wha-
Aklyama... Isn't saying where the card is!!

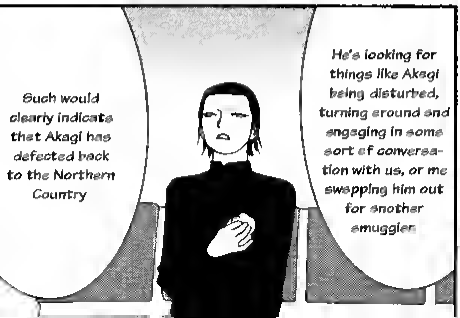
If he still doesn't give you directions after trying several times...
Try holding up your card again.
Okay.
DO NOT LET HIM SEE YOU TALKING TO ANYONE ELSE!!
Okay.
DON'T TURN THIS WAY!

it's extremely probable he's trying to feel us out.


You could even say he's trying to throw us off guard.
What?

and waits to see his reaction
so he intentionally ignores the plan

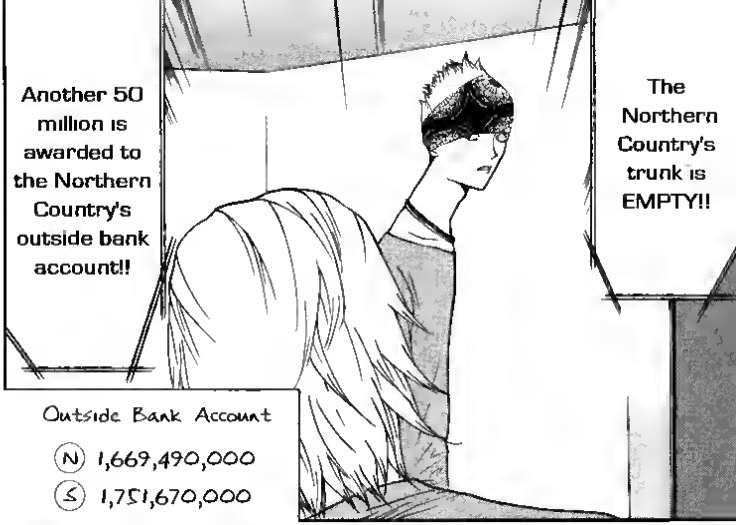

Akiyama is highly suspicious of that danger,
but there's a chance something could make him change his mind and return to the Northern side.
Akagi is supposed to be the South's ally...


Such would clearly indicate that Akagi has defected back to the Northern Country
He's looking for things like Akagi being disturbed, turning around and engaging in some sort of conversation with us, or me swapping him out for another smuggler.

You're saying that's why he isn't showing where the card is?
Exactly.

Unless I knew of his plan, I'd have no reason to change my tactics based on what I know about Akagi or what Akagi tells me.
Reason being, Akiyama knows that I am in complete control of this team.
That's why
if Akiyama shows himself for the inspection,
you absolutely MUST ask him why he didn't give you the card's location.
you need to continue straight to the customs office!
O-Okay
But what exactly was he after—?
There's Akiyama, right on schedule.

Nearco? Where did you wander off to?
Sigh... I give up
KU KU KU KU
Good to hear
I'm lousy when it comes to electronics. At first, I was worried, but since the surrounding speakers all work fine, I verified that it doesn't pose any problem to the game's progress
I received a call from one of our employees that a speaker on the Southern Country's side stopped working
Not at all... In the time you've been away, this game has gotten even more interesting!
Is something the matter?
KU KU KU
The whole place is falling to pieces
It's no wonder since this building is to be demolished in a few days
Doubt 100 million
Really!?
Let's


Another 50 million is awarded to the Northern Country's outside bank account!!
The Northern Country's trunk is EMPTY!!
Outside Bank Account
(N) 1,669,490,000
(S) 1,751,670,000

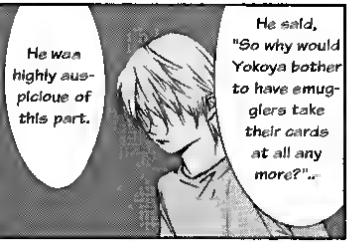
Mr Yoka-ya
Let me go!!
Don't tell me you gave us away!!
Aka-gi's back!!
Hey!!

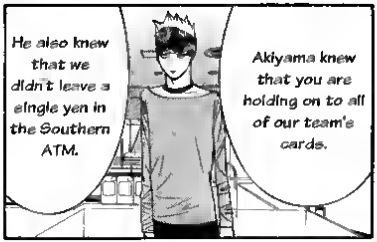
It was just as you said. He suspected our team was up to something
Akiyama answered your question.

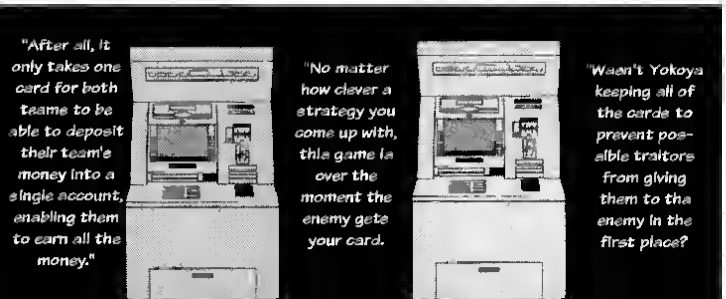
Such as ...?
So he asked me a lot of detailed questions.
It was more like he had been holding a bunch of doubts...
Ah... When I say "suspected," I mean more like he hadn't figured anything out specifically
I knew it.

whether or not you, Mr. Yokoya. were afraid to let smugglers carry cards.
Well, first was...

Oh?


He was highly suspicious of this part.
He said, "So why would Yokoya bother to have smugglers take their cards at all any more?"..

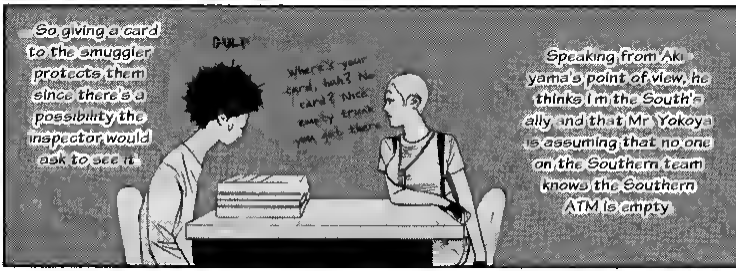

He also knew that we didn't leave a single yen in the Southern ATM.
Akiyama knew that you are holding on to all of our team's cards.

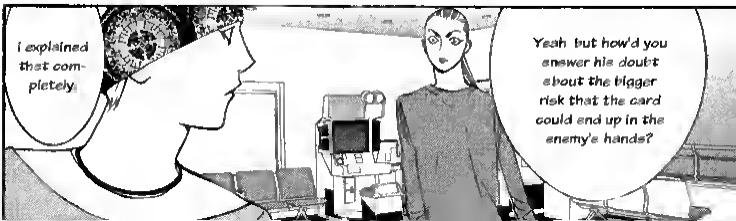

"After all, it only takes one card for both teams to be able to deposit their team's money into a single account, enabling them to earn all the money."
"No matter how clever a strategy you come up with, this game is over the moment the enemy gets your card.
"Wasn't Yokoya keeping all of the cards to prevent possible traitors from giving them to the enemy in the first place?

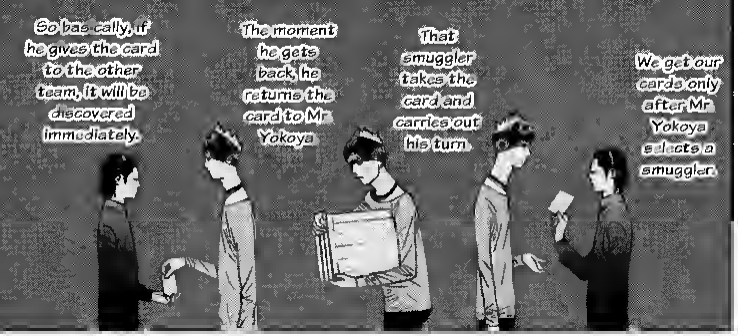
He said, "I can't possibly understand why the ever-so-cautious Yokoya would give anyone a card..."

The most basic reason for the smuggler to have their card is because if the inspector demands to see it, they're trapped.

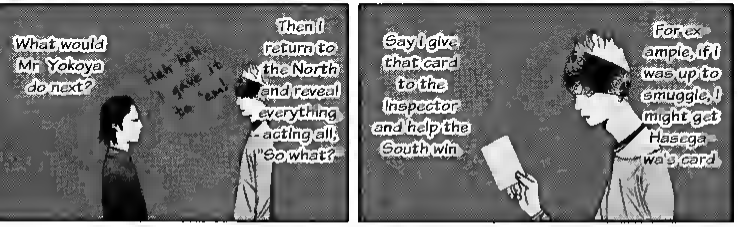
So? What did you say in response?
The obvious answer, of course!!


So giving a card to the smuggler protects them since there's a possibility the inspector would ask to see it.
GULP
Where's your card, huh? No card? Nice empty trunk you got there.
Speaking from Akiyama's point of view, he thinks I'm the South's ally, and that Mr. Yokoya is assuming that no one on the Southern team knows the Southern ATM is empty


I explained that completely.
Yeah but how'd you answer his doubt about the bigger risk that the card could end up in the enemy's hands?


So basically, if he gives the card to the other team, it will be discovered immediately.
The moment he gets back, he returns the card to Mr Yokoya
That smuggler takes the card and carries out his turn
We get our cards only after Mr Yokoya selects a smuggler.

The card that the smuggler gets is NOT his own card, it's someone else's.
And there's one more important part to this.


What would Mr Yokoya do next?
High fives, I gave it to 'em!
Then I return to the North and reveal everything - acting all, "So what?"
Say I give that card to the inspector and help the South win
For example, if I was up to smuggle, I might get Hasegawa's card

you can't get a new one.
if it's lost
In this game, if a card breaks or is found defective they'll release one... but..
to burn my card.
Nope because there's a much better way to get even - and that's
Get angry and beat me half to death?

you can't get your money back at the end of the game.
Without a card,

We can't betray him no matter what.
... That's what I said.
That's why our lives are basically in the palm of Mr. Yokoya's hand.

.. I think.
-- Yes.

Were you able to quell Akiyama's doubts?
So?

A perfect answer!
Precisely!

Are you SURE?

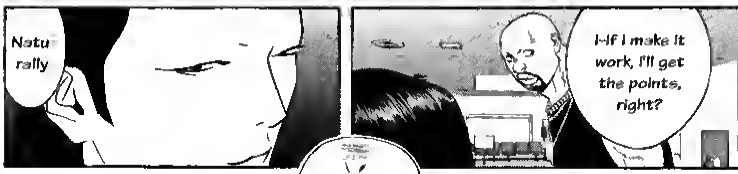
I'm sure!!!
Y-Yes..

Next turn?
Just you wait! I'll pull off the plan on my next turn!
Akiyama is certain to say where he's hid the card next time!!

I'm not sending you anymore.
You have no next turn.
I handled it perfectly! I cleared up his doubts!! That's why next time, I-
W-WAIT A MINUTE !!
EEEEE EEH!?
Eh-
I'm begg-in' ya! One more tu-
That'll never happen!!
...N-No!! I...!!
You're the type of person who'll fall prey to Akiyama's persuasion and defect back to their side if given the chance. We can't have that now, can we?
You had ONE chance.

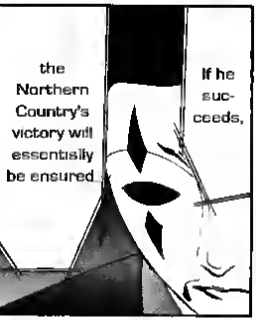
BUW-
AH
What part of NO don't you get!?
We ain't trustin' a piece of shit like you who couldn't even pull off such an easy job!!
... Back on track,

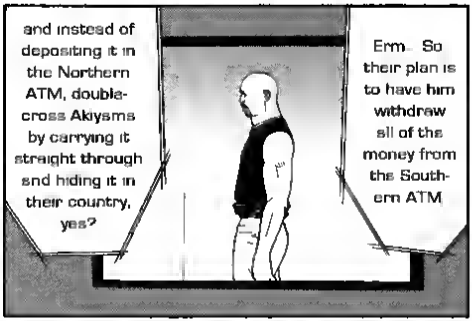
Mr. Hasegawa,
it's up to you to handle the plan next turn.
EH!?
R-REALLY!?


Naturally
I-If I make it work, I'll get the points, right?

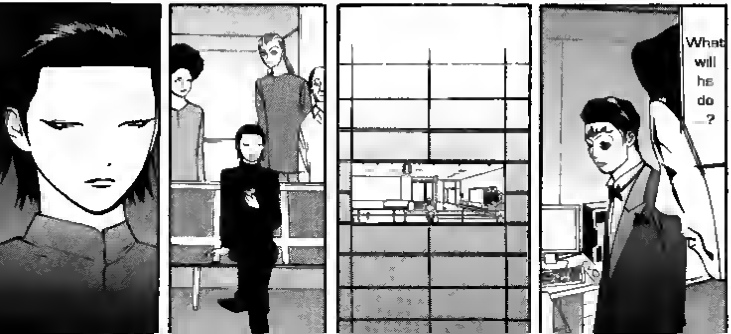
Game 29 Northern Country's turn to smuggle

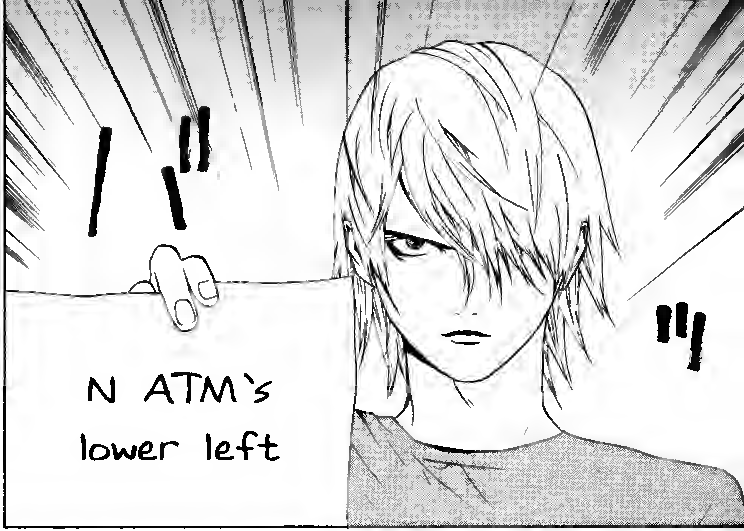
The Northern Country is sending Hasegawa to smuggle next?
Oh!


If he succeeds,
the Northern Country's victory will essentially be ensured


and instead of depositing it in the Northern ATM, double-cross Akiyama by carrying it straight through and hiding it in their country, yes?
Erm... So their plan is to have him withdraw all of the money from the Southern ATM

If Akiyama catches on to the North's abnormal movements, I suppose he'll refuse to tell them, like the last turn
The only question is whether or not Akiyama will reveal where his team hid their card


What will he do—?


N ATM's
lower left

He's signaled where the card's hidden!!
Yaahoo !!!

Nothing is certain yet...
There's a chance he's lying about the location.
No.. This is Akiyama we're talking about
This game is as good as ours, right!?

Ooubt, 100 million.
It's over...!!
Another 50 million is awarded to the Northern Country--!!!
the Northern Country's trunk was EMPTY!!
Aaaaaah! The Southern Country's inspector has called doubt on 100 million-- but--
... How'd the plan go!?
Well!?
Here comes Hasegawa!!

It's
a BIG
SUCCESS!
♡
Hou!
YEA
AAA
AAA
AAH
——
!!

Chapter 54
Achievement
THE PLAN TOTALLY WORKED !!!
YOU DID IT —— !!
LIAR GAME
ライアーゲーム

what Hasegawa was told during the inspection
So far, so good... The only problem now is
That part about hiding the money? It was a lie.
The truth is we fell for your plan and deposited it in the Northern ATM.
If Akiyama's claim to have hidden the 1.9 billion yen was a bluff, he would have been sure to say
KUKUKU. Sorry about that.
But now that you've come this far, you've no choice but to see this through to the end
Y-You mean, it was all a bluff!?
HUH!?
Do that and we'll both be saved.
And that's to carry the remaining 1.9 billion on your next turn.
You only have one way to save yourself
Think about it, right now, our teams scores are very close, meaning no one gets away safe from this game.
By my calculations there's an 80-90% chance that's what happened

What did Akiyama have to say?
... So...
Excellent work back there.
Mr. Hasegawa
he actually didn't say a word.
About that..
!?
And I was afraid that if I butted in asking about it, he'd immediately find out I'm on our side, so I ended up staying quiet..
But nothing happened
Honestly, I expected that too
What? He was surely going to force you into transferring money one more time...

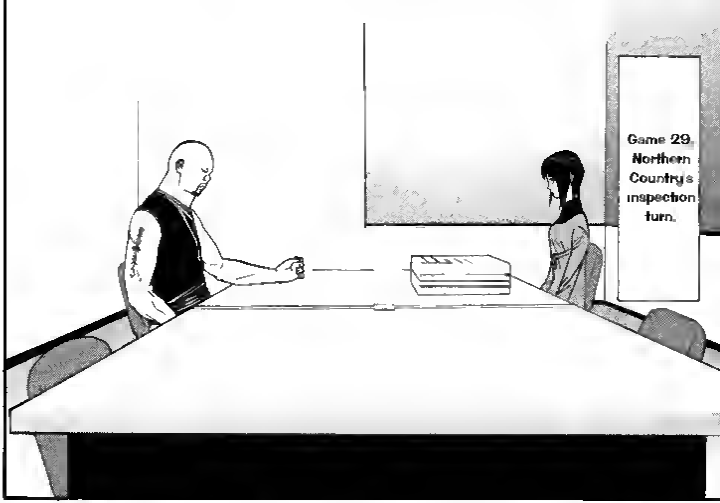
How unexpected.
Our top priority was still to not let our plans be exposed...
No... you did well.

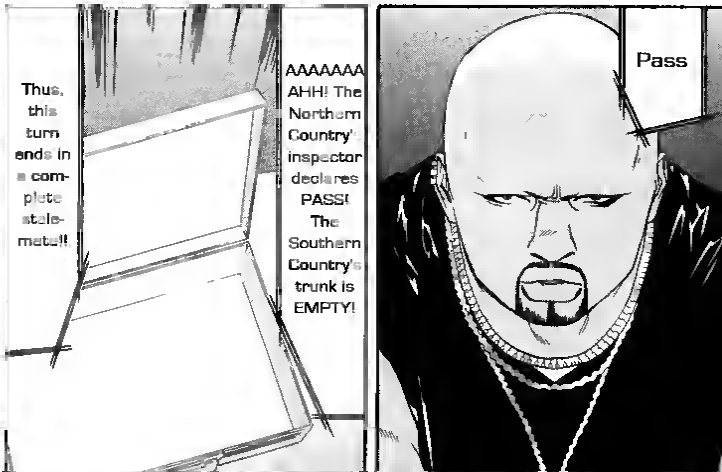
But he was telling the truth about hiding 19 billion yen all along?!
I was extremely confident Akiyama was bluffing

And since this game is near its end, watching and waiting to make a move may prove to be too late...
He can only admit to it being a bluff inside of the customs office...

Sure.
The South may use that opportunity to try something...
Please go again as inspector, if you would.
Mr Hasegawa!
Yes?

How odd.
I don't know...
Why didn't Akiyama admit to Hasegawa he was bluffing all along?
.....
Without admitting the truth to get that money transferred their team doesn't have any chance to win.
After all, the reality is that the 1.91 billion is indeed deposited inside the Northern ATM
Kanzaki might try to say something to Hasegawa!!
SOUTHERN COU
They're sending Kanzaki Nao as the next smuggler!!
Ah!!


Game 29.
Northern
Country's
inspection
turn.


Thus,
this
turn
ends in
a com-
plete
stale-
mate!!
AAAAAAA
AHH! The
Northern
Country's
inspector
declares
PASS!
The
Southern
Country's
trunk is
EMPTY!
Pass

How did it go, Mr Hasegawa?

Nothing happened after all.

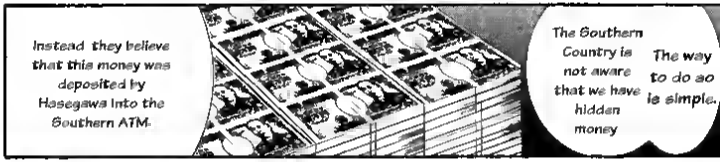
That so?

!!
... That said, there is no reason for us to be afraid. We just need to adjust our actions to the situation.

Gentlemen,
It appears the Southern Country has in fact hidden our 1.1 billion yen.

What do you make of it?
Their team must have hidden the money all along.
.....

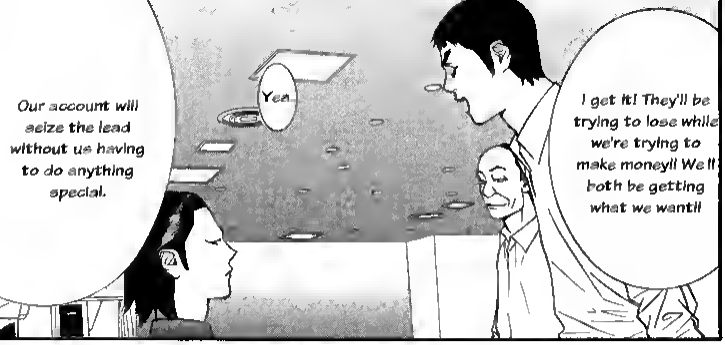
Our country is now losing, so we need to increase the amount of money in our outside bank account.
We'll change tactics from here on.


Instead they believe that this money was deposited by Hasegawa into the Southern ATM.
The Southern Country is not aware that we have hidden money
The way to do so is simple.

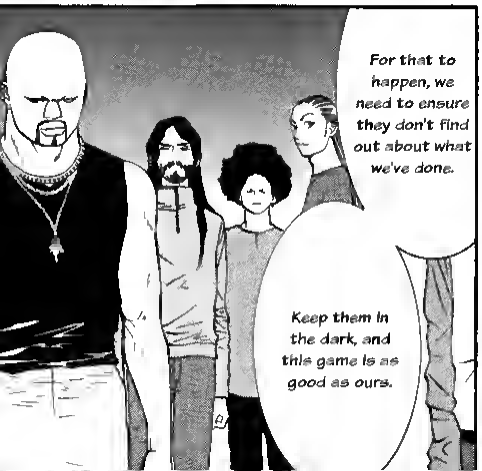
Northern Country
Southern Country
zero
ATM
~3.8 billion
~1.7 billion
Outside Bank account
~1.7 billion
~1.7 billion
Grand Total
~5.5 billion
Therefore, Akiyama imagines the current money balance to be like so:

They will act to get rid of the money in the Southern Country's outside account.
intentionally lose.

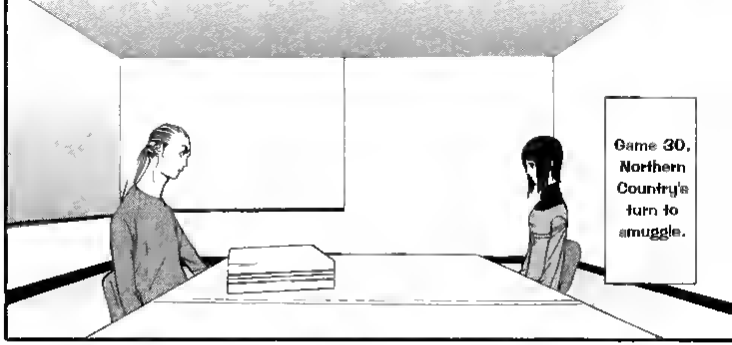
... So what they'll do next is obvious
The whole team believes they are winning by a long shot


Our account will seize the lead without us having to do anything special.
Yea.
I get it! They'll be trying to lose while we're trying to make money!! We'll both be getting what we want!!

Although we'll fail to meet the ideal scenario of losing with the most money, we'll still end this game well in the green zone.
They ain't got a clue what the real money balance is!
HAHAHA! The Southern Country's a bunch of sap!!
NORTHERN


For that to happen, we need to ensure they don't find out about what we've done.
Keep them in the dark, and this game is as good as ours.

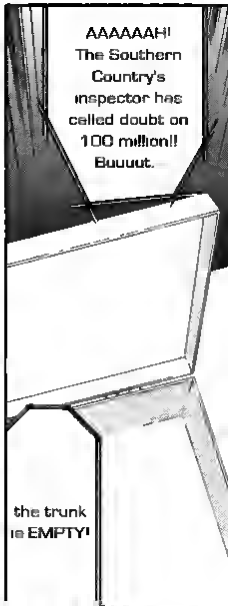
maybe up to 1 billion out of their dirty hands.
We can easily pry a little over a half a billion... No,


Game 30. Northern Country's turn to smuggle.

100 million
OOUBT.

YESSS!
We're now in the lead!!

The Northern Country is awarded 50 million yen!!
Outside bank accounts
Northern Country
1,769,490,000
Southern Country
1,681,670,000


AAAAAAH! The Southern Country's inspector has called doubt on 100 million!! Buuuut.
the trunk is EMPTY!

Game 34
Game 33
Game 32
Now that we've come to the close of game 34, we will stop here for the day
We will now announce the current standings of each country's bank accounts in the outside country

Outside Bank Accounts
Northern Country
17億6949万
(1,769,490,000)
Southern Country
16億8167万
(1,681,670,000)

Well, sure they went to lose, but they're trying to lose by the smallest margin possible!
.. That's not a very big gap between our two teams.
We will resume with Game 35 at 9 o'clock AM tomorrow, our final day
Ladies and gentlemen! You all must certainly be exhausted from this long day

...
We'll dig that gap wide open!
What're you worried about? There are 16 games left, man!

Won't Akiyama catch on with that much time left to go?
But there are 16 games left tomorrow.
If things continue like this without Akiyama noticing anything, the Northern country wins...

If there was anything at all he could use...
There's nothing at all that will
Stop... even IF he did... how would he try to reverse this situation?
It would have to be a member of the Northern Country. He'd try to pull another traitor.
The next day
At last, the final day has come!
We will be opening with Game 35. It is the Northern Country's turn to smuggle!
I have decided that for every turn...
Gentlemen... in regards to today's games...
If the Northern Country's smuggler would please make their way to the gate?

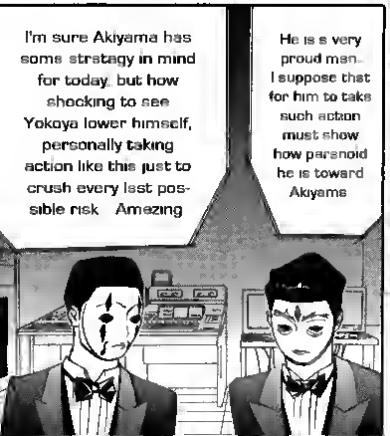
I will be the inspector and smuggler.

It's possible that Akiyama has some sort of plan in mind for today.
Though I don't want to believe it,
EH!?

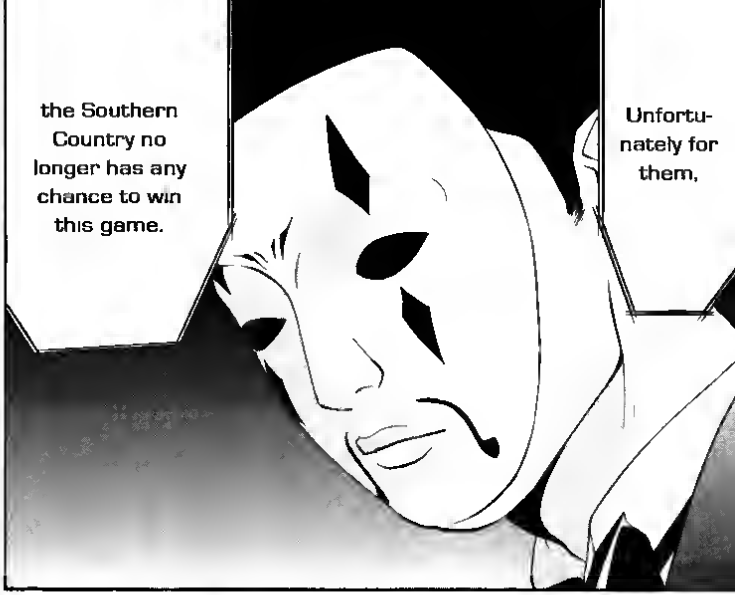
there is absolutely nothing he can do.
However, if I go every turn...
!!
such as the way he tried to pull Akagi and Shibayama over to his side.

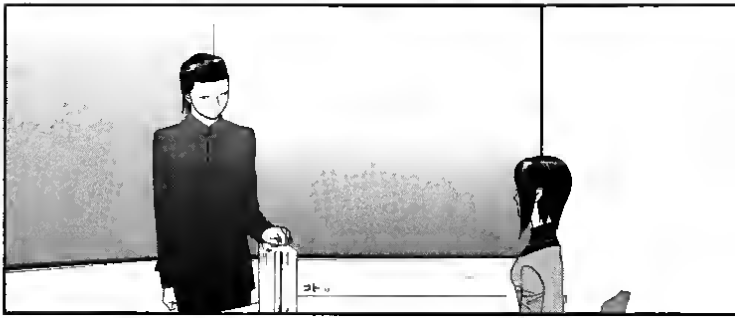
!!
Those of you who feel you don't have enough loyalty points are welcome to stand watch and make sure nothing goes amiss in my absence.
Still, that doesn't mean that you gentlemen don't have an important assignment.

I will award a considerable amount of points.
To those who can spot even the slightest trace of suspicious actions in this critical situation,


I'm sure Akiyama has some strategy in mind for today, but how shocking to see Yokoya lower himself, personally taking action like this just to crush every last possible risk. Amazing.
He is a very proud man. I suppose that for him to take such action must show how paranoid he is toward Akiyama.

Hoho! What a surprise.
I'd not have suspected Yokoya to handle all of the remaining games.


Unfortu-
nately for
them,
the Southern
Country no
longer has any
chance to win
this game.



My my
KUKUKU! It looks like the Southern Country's planning to only send Kanzaki Nao for the rest of the game!
Game 50
Game 48
Game 45
Game 42
Game 38
Game 35
for all 50 games of the CONTRABAND GAME have now been completed!!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! Breathe a sigh of relief...

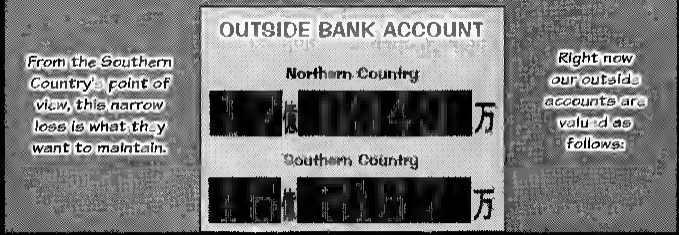
...We will now commence
26

announcing the final results...!!

All 50 games of the CONTRABAND GAME have now been completed—!!
We will now commence ...
announcing the final results——!!
Chapter 55
Disturbance

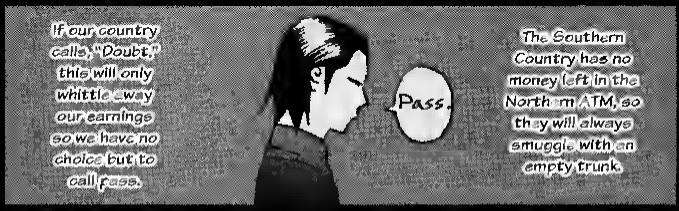
We don't even need to see the scores; our team won by a landslide, right?
Of course.
During the morning of the Contraband Game's third day, the following had happened...
It's fine.
I'm sorry... about this morning.
Um...
パー
Pass.
Game 35, the Southern Country's turn to smuggle.
パー
Pass.
It was Game 35, the Northern Country's turn to smuggle.
Pass.
Game 36, the Northern Country's turn to smuggle.
Yokoya said we'd be able to make like half a billion before, right?
Something wrong?
Wha... what?!
Guys, you see this? They're both calling pass, this game ain't goin' nowhere!

that's totally impossible!
Now that I'm looking at it,
it's just, I can't see how it's possible for our team to open up a huge lead!
N-not at all!!
Are you implying that I lied?
Par don?
Think about this for a moment.
Naturally, they would want to lose and pull out of the game... and that's what they've just done.
The Southern Country believes they have all of the ATM money to themselves.



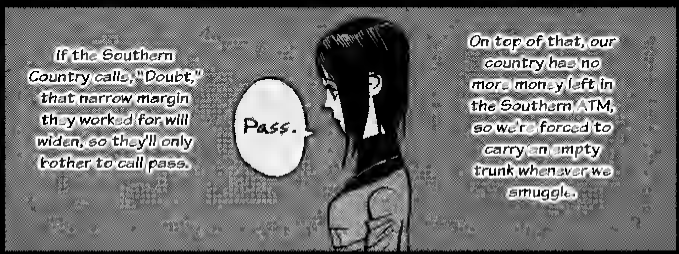
From the Southern Country's point of view, this narrow loss is what they want to maintain.

Right now our outside accounts are valued as follows:



If our country calls, "Doubt," this will only whittle away our earnings so we have no choice but to call pass.

The Southern Country has no money left in the Northern ATM, so they will always smuggle with an empty trunk.



If the Southern Country calls, "Doubt," that narrow margin they worked for will widen, so they'll only bother to call pass.

On top of that, our country has no more money left in the Southern ATM, so we're forced to carry an empty trunk whenever we smuggle.

KU KU KU
There's no way we can make any money now!!
Ah!! That's true!!
STUPID, aren't you?
You two are truly-
Mr Murata, Mr Tsumura ...
Don't tell me there are more idiots here who agree with them?
S-Stupid ...!?
?
But there's an incredibly simple way to break the deadlock.
Assuming neither of us has anything to do but carry empty trunks, then yes, the game will freeze where it is.
You are correct to say the enemy team has no choice but to pass and that the Southern ATM has no money in it. Let's think ahead.

We just need to carry money
Oh we have the money
C-Carry!? But we don't have any left in the ATM...??
HUUU UH!?
Ha-
I'll simply fill a trunk with 100 million in advance of our turn.
Ah so ... that's how.
It's right here
!!
Wait
We can't do that!!
That was even an option? I had no idea.
!!

If we use this stuff, it's sure to cause an error!!
Smuggling only works when we take money from the Southern ATM and carry it to our country!!
I mean, isn't this money registered to the Northern ATM!?
This procedure will ensure that the money is recognized as property of the Southern ATM.
Thereafter, I'll immediately withdraw that same 100 million
Before I smuggle the money, I'll deposit it in the Southern ATM
I'm not stupid enough to fall for that.
and there won't be anything to worry about
I'll then take that money with me to the inspection
Incorrect.
We don't make a single yen of profit!!
zero to our balance!!
You're saying to take money that's ours temporarily make it belong to the South and then to repossess it all over again!?
No!! That still doesn't help us!!
Great!!

!!
They'll begin to look for flaws in their thinking, wondering what went wrong.
But they won't be. The enemy will fall into confusion.
Take a moment to think. By their estimation, our country's trunks should be empty
The goal of this strategy is to confuse the enemy team.
Right under their noses, we'll start to drain their money away
And that's what we went.
Just watch how the next game goes.
As they say, seeing is believing.
Pass.
Game 39, Northern Country's turn to smuggle.

But how!?
EEEE EH!?
The Northern Country's smuggling attempt was a success!!
AAAAAAH!! There's 100 MILLION inside the Northern Country's trunk—!!!
The Southern Country has mistakenly called doubt, awarding the North with 140 million!!
AAAAH!! The Northern Country's trunk contains 100 million—!!
Game 41, Northern Country's turn to smuggle
AAAAAH! The Southern Country mistakenly calls doubt yet again!!
Game 42, The Northern Country's turn to smuggle
AAAAAH!! This time it's empty!! Once again, the South mistakenly calls doubt, awarding the North with 30 million!!
Game 43, The Northern Country's turn to smuggle

Why thank you for the compliment
Forgive me for my stupidity.
FU FU FU
When she tried to outwit you, you saw it coming and outwitted her instead!
That one turn threw the South off balance... not understanding how you had 100 million, Nao was all flustered.
.. It's just as you said, Mr. Yokoya
If you truly mean that then you'll do as I say during the coming fourth round.
... yes sir
As you have witnessed, everything works out when my directions are followed.
The final tallies are in for the outside bank accounts!
We apologize for making you wait!

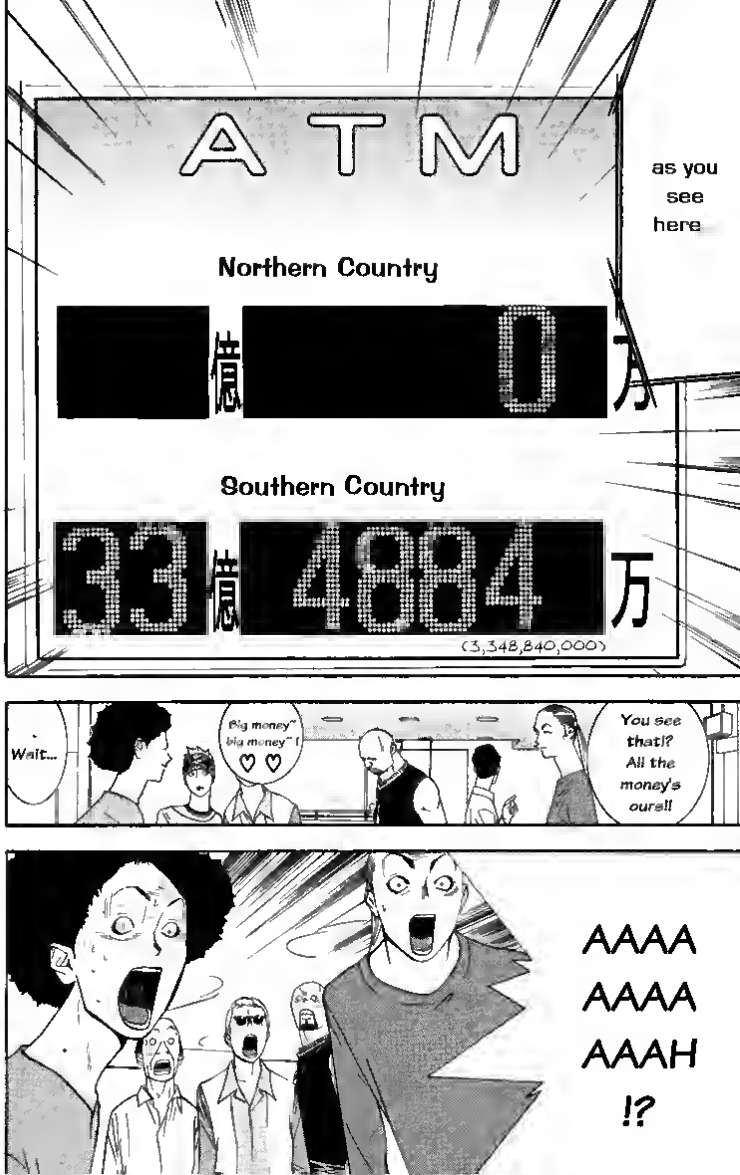
However, before we announce the results we will open the microphone lines for each team
?
Huh? Microphone lines..?
Up until now, direct communication was only possible during inspections From this point on, you can now converse freely
UWA!! I CAN HEAR KANZAKI NAO!!
I can hear the people on the Northern side!!
Ah!!
Then, allow me...
Thus to anyone who has something to say and was unable to say it the floor is yours
Members of the Southern Country, you have all played well.
As enemies, I enjoyed the fight you put up...
Yours Mr. Akiyama...
That ingenious move to hide the 1.11 billion we attempted to have your players carry...
Especially ...
I must admit, you had me nervous for a while.
Aw, you're making me blush.

But I hate to tell ya...
the truth is... we didn't hide that money at all.
HAAH!?
!!
Yeah, it was a total lie.
We had actually fallen completely into your trap.
Great job on that one.
Huh!?!
... so that means what?
That 14 billion is in the Northern Country's ATM??
If you add the stack of bills we have here..
then our country actually possesses all the money that was left in the ATMs!?

And here I was thinkin' the Southern Country was a terrible enemy able to keep up with Master Yokoya!!
KAAAAA HAHAHA!! Joke's on you, retarde!!
What a pack of looooose-ers!!
Was that all you had?
Ah yama.
We didn't even need a plan to take them down!
Mr Yokoya, looks like we overestimated them.
The WINNER of the CONTRABANO GAME IS—!!
Very well, we will now announce the final standings of the outside bank accounts!!
Outside Bank Accounts
Northern Country
万
Southern Country
万

THE NORTHERN COUNTRY —!!
Outside Bank Accounts
Northern Country
23億6949万
(2,369,490,000)
Southern Country
14億8167万
(1,481,670,000)
WE CRUSHED THEM BY A LONGSHOT !!
WE DID IT!!
We will next proceed to pay out your individual prizes
Congratulations, members of the Northern Country You will all proceed directly to the fourth stage of the LIAR GAME
WE DID IT!! WE DID IT!!
YA-HOOO!!

Hey...
We're gonna get our money right?
I've found the missing money, it's on the game floor...
Yes, understood
Mr Ncerco
Ah! Erm, the amount of money in the ATM does not match the electronic record...
if each player would please return his personal card to the nearest LGT employee...
We sure will.
The total money remaining in each Country's ATM is...
Let us now announce the amount of money remaining in each team's ATM that will be distributed equally among their respective players.
We have finished accounting for all of the money.


ATM
as you see here
Northern Country
億
0
万
Southern Country
33
億
4884
万
(3,348,840,000)
Wait...
"Big money" "big money" ! ♡ ♡
You see that!? All the money's ours!!
AAAA AAAA AAAH !?

THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AT ZERO!!
HOLD ON A DAMN MINUTE!! YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!!
We have made no mistake.
WHY IS OUR TEAM AT ZERO!?

these are the correct final results.
Without the shadow of a doubt,

Yokoya... can you tell why things turned out this way?
while you guys get to carry a colossal debt on top of being forced to enter stage four!
We get all the money and the freedom to walk away
you lose.
KUKU KU... Yokoya.

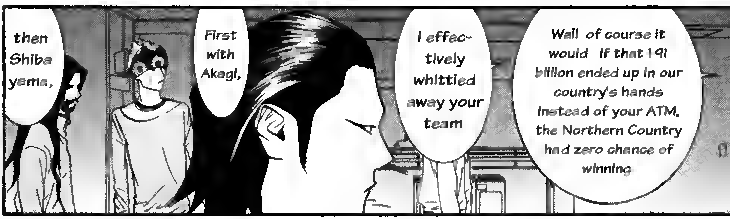
It's because you
made one HUGE mistake.

TO BE CONTINUED

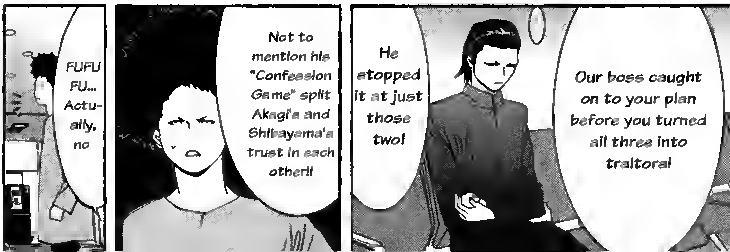
Chapter 56
Blunder

What ARE you talking about?
made a huge mistake ...!?
...I...
Let me give you the full run-down.
KU KU KU..
DID YOU DEPOSIT IT IN YOUR ACCOUNT!? ALL 300 MILLION?!
As I just told you, our team had fallen for your trap hook, line, and sinker. All 1.21 billion was deposited into the Northern ATM
I thought we were goners at that point
Honestly...
But not giving up, I took my chances on a plan that could divide your team and bring us back from the dead

That 1.9l billion never made it to the Northern ATM at all.
We hid it!!
!!
And my bluff bore immediate results!


Well of course it would If that 1.9l billion ended up in our country's hands instead of your ATM, the Northern Country had zero chance of winning
I effectively whittled away your team
First with Akagi,
then Shibayama,

and finally even Hasegawa
Knock it off, Akiyama! Hasegawa ain't the same as them!
You might think he agreed to go with your plan, but that was all an act!
He was our spy!! We had found out about Akagi and Shibayama's betrayal way earlier!!

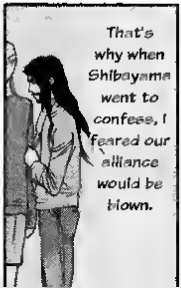

Our boss caught on to your plan before you turned all three into traitors!
He stopped it at just those two!
Not to mention his "Confession Game" split Akagi's and Shibayama's trust in each other!!
FUFU FU... Actually, no

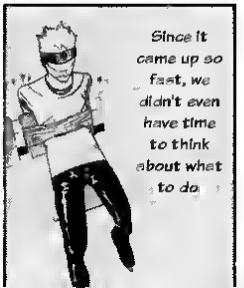
'Cuz the truth is
we had been working together the whole time!
!!
WHAAAAAT!?
H-H-H-H-hold it!!
This d-e-en't make any sen-se!
I mean, you betrayed Akagi during the "Confession Game...!!"
Mm-hm..

but it was all an act!
Sure I betrayed him...
!?
!?
You thought Yokoya prevented Hasegawa from switching sides, right?
Well, you're wrong again
You guys were already mistaken from the very beginning
NORTHERN COUNTRY
HAHA!
...it was all an act!?!

I already had joined the Southern Country
way before we held our "Confession Game!!"
HASE GAWA AAAA ?!?
Yokoya... you assumed you stopped our uprising, but
you're WRONG

By the time you caught on to Akiyama's attempt to split us up, we already had joined forces!
It was too late!

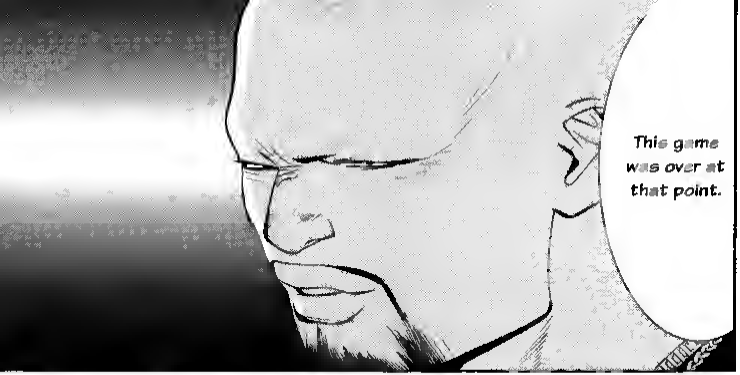

That's why when Shibayama went to confess, I feared our alliance would be blown.

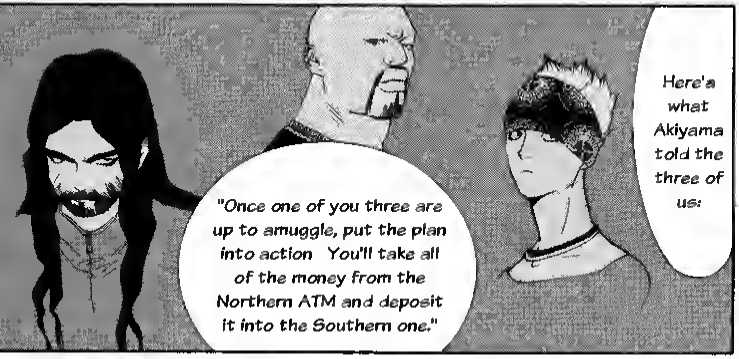

Since it came up so fast, we didn't even have time to think about what to do.

When you made us stage that "Confession Game," I almost panicked.
Have to hand it to ya, you're really some-thin' else.

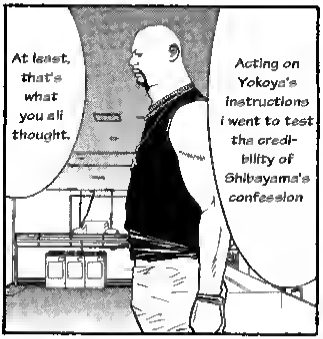
it's all an act.
Don't worry Hasegawa,
But that didn't happen!
Relax, I only pretended to sell us out.
I told 'im the stuff he already suspected anyway but not the crux of the plan
Good news is...
Yokoya hasn't caught on to you yet.
The rest...
is all up to you.
Since Yokoya is certain that me and Akagi are traitors anyway, playing dumb during this game won't save us from more of his interrogations. Better to pretend to sell out my partners,
then blow the entire operation.
Making it look like I abandoned my pals, Yokoya is positive to think "Akiyama's plot has failed."
And that will be his weakness.

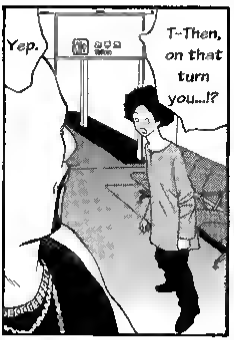
weakening him further!
His genuine, panicked reaction will reinforce Yokoya's mistaken thinking.
But that's fine.
Then when Akagi finds out what happened, he'd really think I betrayed him.
... have that conversation...!?
...W-When did you guys
.....
But this is Yokoya we're talking about. He still had his doubts about Shibayama's confession.
After all, how do I know your confession is the truth or not?
... so if what you claim is true, then Akiyama will tell Hasegawa the exact same thing.
You said that Akiyama was planning on betraying three of you--yourself, Akagi, and Hasegawa.
It went just like Shibayama hoped. Yokoya was confident Akiyama's plan had been snuffed out.
without even knowing I was already on the Southern Country's side.
If Hasegawa's story agrees with yours, then I will believe you and
I will send Hasegawa to the customs office next turn.
Of all the people, he used me to test his suspicions..


This game was over at that point.

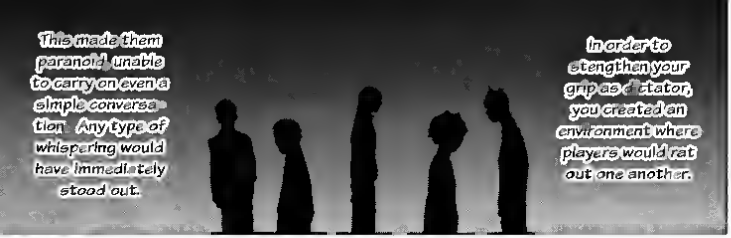

Here's what Akiyama told the three of us:
"Once one of you three are up to amuggle, put the plan into action. You'll take all of the money from the Northern ATM and deposit it into the Southern one."

But what I was actually doing was...


At least, that's what you all thought.
Acting on Yokoya's instructions I went to test the credibility of Shibayama's confession

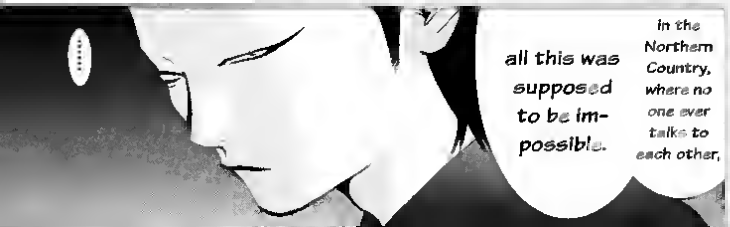

Yep.
T-Then, on that turn you...!?

I deposited the hundreds of millions into the Southern Country's ATM.
acting on Akiyama's instructions.
carried the money over by that time!?
What!? He already had
!!
because by your estimations, there was no way this sort of thing could have happened.
But I understand your feelings.
You look like you're still not convinced
What's the matter, Yokoya?


This made them paranoid unable to carry on even a simple conversation. Any type of whispering would have immediately stood out.
In order to strengthen your grip as dictator, you created an environment where players would rat out one another.

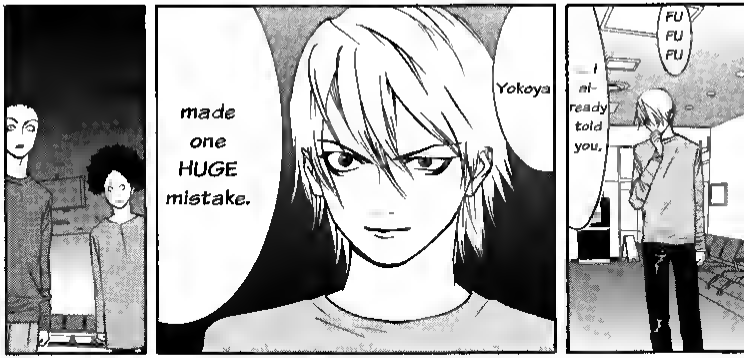
that your team members would communicate with each another.
So you deemed it impossible

or, going back even further, to get Hasegawa to join them well before he ever made contact with me,
or to relay to Akagi that Shibayama's double-cross was all an act,
Whether to confirm that they still wanted to betray the team,


.....
all this was supposed to be impossible.
In the Northern Country, where no one ever talks to each other,

Dude, you couldn't even pass a note to another player!!
We were always keeping tabs on each other!!
Y-yeah!! It's impossible!!

How did you manage to get Hasegawa over to the South if you couldn't even talk to him!?
I don't buy it!! How the heck did you guys communicate!?
So we couldn't have any secret conversations !!
Besides, Master Yokoya commanded that we always had to be in his line of sight


made one HUGE mistake.
Yokoya
FU FU FU
...I already told you.

KU KU KU
...What... mistake!?

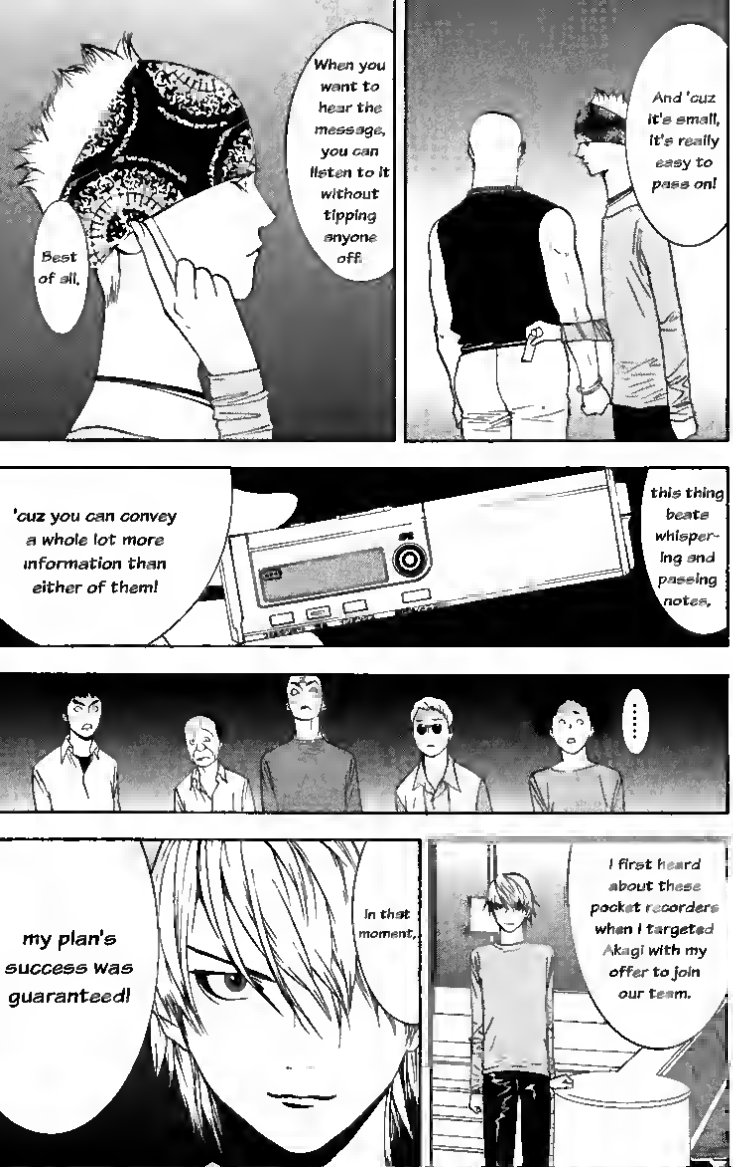
but his METHOD was wrong.
His IDEA was right.
In order to keep a close hold on his dictatorship, Yokoya created an insider system.

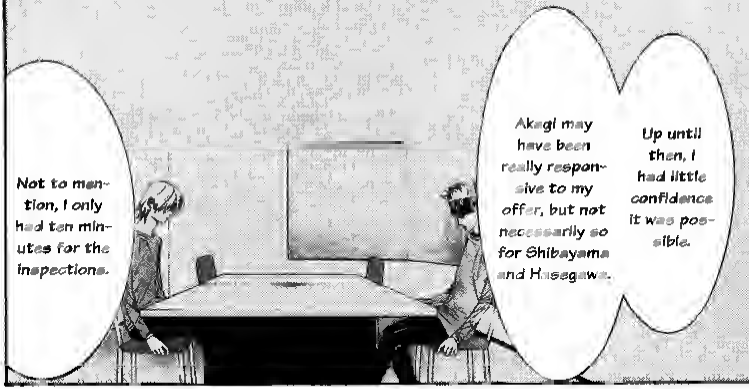
I'm talking about THIS.
!?
He gave each one of you a tape recorder.
Ah
AAAAA AAAH!!
!!
Yokoyo.
letting your team carry this convenient little device was a bad idea.
Sure, it is a powerful tool in maintaining the atmosphere of paranoia
but..

it's also a powerful tool to keep in touch with the rest of your team.

Oh, yes we did!
YOU GUYS DIDN'T ...!?!
AAAA AAAH!!

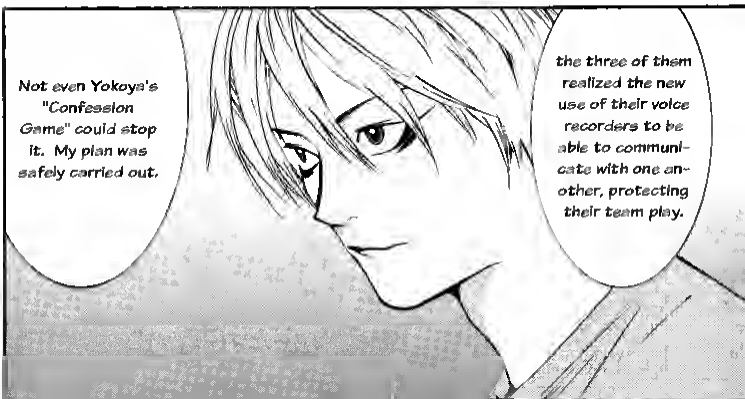
It fits in the palm of your hand, so you can talk as much as you want without arousing suspicion!
If I had something to say, I'd just silently talk into it like this
But these guys made it a cinch
We couldn't whisper, pass notes, nothing! It was a difficult situation

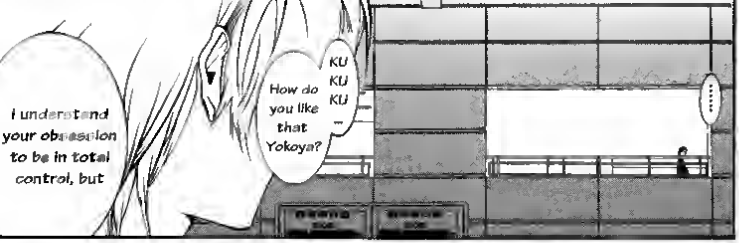

When you want to hear the message, you can listen to it without tipping anyone off.
Best of all,
And 'cuz it's small, it's really easy to pass on!
'cuz you can convey a whole lot more information than either of them!
this thing beats whispering and passing notes,
.....
my plan's success was guaranteed!
In that moment,
I first heard about these pocket recorders when I targeted Akagi with my offer to join our team.

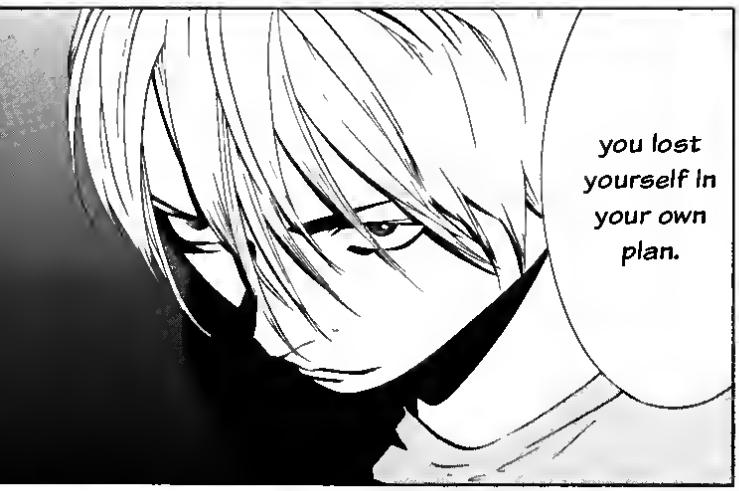

Up until then, I had little confidence it was possible.
Akagi may have been really responsive to my offer, but not necessarily so for Shibayama and Hasegawa.
Not to mention, I only had ten minutes for the inspections.

So what I did was I borrowed his recorder and I took my time to explain my plan, its method, and its merits.
Explaining all the complicated details by tape, it made the customs office conversations a whole lot smoother. I convinced Shibayama with little trouble at all.

I was even able to draw Hasegawa in without having met with him at all.
But that's not all. Seeing how I passed on my message to Hasegawa,

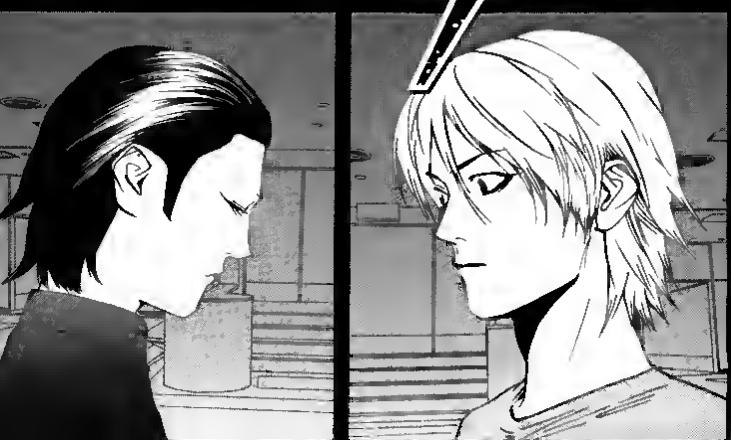

the three of them realized the new use of their voice recorders to be able to communicate with one another, protecting their team play.
Not even Yokoya's "Confession Game" could stop it. My plan was safely carried out.


I understand your obsession to be in total control, but
How do you like that Yokoya?
KU KU KU ...


you lost yourself in your own plan.

TO BE CONTINUED

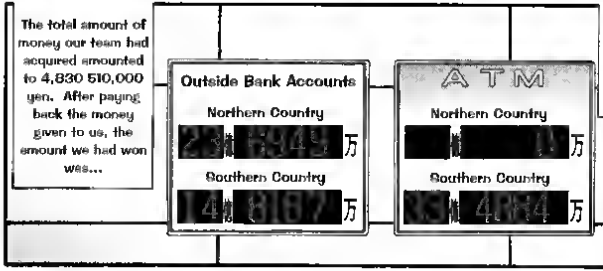
LIAR GAME
ライアーゲーム

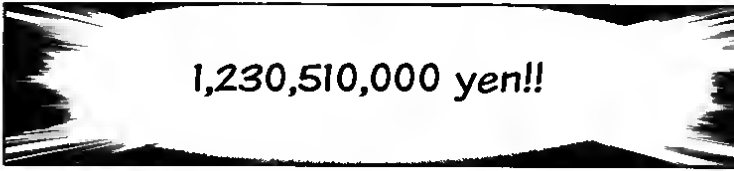


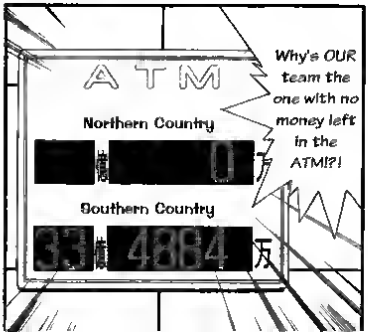
The connection between our three allies gave them the strength to break away from Yokoya's dictatorship.
And he was exactly right.

A "connection" would become the fuel to smash oppression.

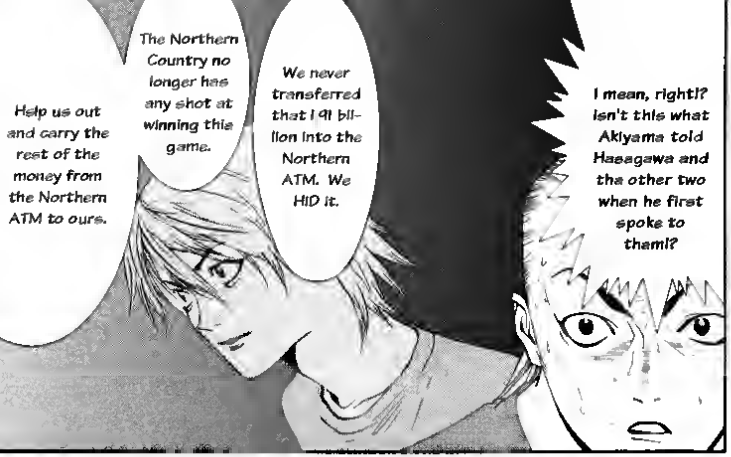
Right when we started to implement Mr. Akyama's new strategy, he had said...


The total amount of money our team had acquired amounted to 4,830 510,000 yen. After paying back the money given to us, the amount we had won was...
Outside Bank Accounts
Northern Country
Southern Country
ATM
Northern Country
Southern Country
And so, the game had ended.


1,230,510,000 yen!!


ATM
Northern Country
Southern Country
Why's OUR team the one with no money left in the ATM!?!

These scores are all wrong!!
H-hold up!!

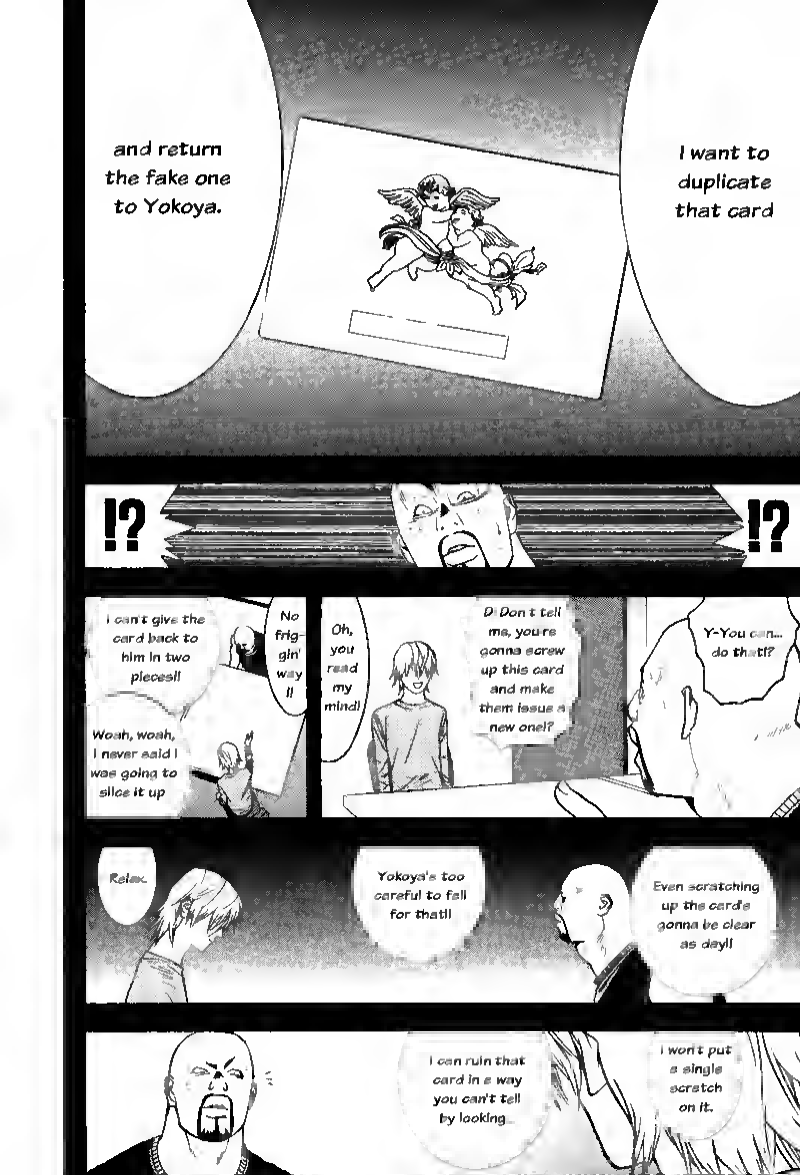

I mean, right!? Isn't this what Akiyama told Hasegawa and the other two when he first spoke to them!?
We never transferred that 1.91 billion into the Northern ATM. We HID it.
The Northern Country no longer has any shot at winning this game.
Help us out and carry the rest of the money from the Northern ATM to ours.

But after that game ended, Akiyama next said..
Sorry, we never hid the 1.91 billion at all
You guys tricked us completely and we ended up depositing it into your ATM

... So shouldn't the Northern ATM still have 1.91 billion inside of it!?
KU KU KU
I'll explain that, too, if you insist.
Ikezoe just touched on it. I lied to Hasegawa and the others in order to get them to co-operate.
Namely, that part about hiding the 1.91 billion instead of carrying it
Oh... that's right!

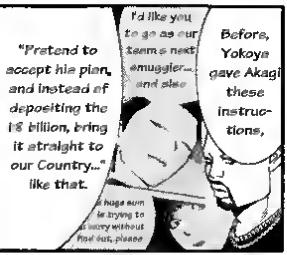
Consequently, Hasegawa carried over the remaining 1.2 billion in the Northern ATM to ours!
Trusting my words, the three of them willingly came to our aide.
EEE EEH !?
Know that part about the 1.9 billion being hidden? Well... I lied
After he did that for us, I went ahead and told him the truth.
W-W-Wait a minute!!
Whaaaat !?
Our team totally fell for your trick and deposited that 1.9 billion into your team's ATM.
All it takes is one last simple move.
Calm down. I plan to keep my end of the bargain.
You said once your team took the lead you'd help the three of us escape from this damned game...!!
Than what about our agreement!?

We just need to take that 1.91 billion that got deposited in the Northern ATM
and transfer it into the Southern one.
That'll give our team all the money that is left in the ATMs.
The Southern Country will win by a long shot
and will be able to save you, just as promised
!!
This is probably my last chance.
The odds of Yakoya letting one of us three smuggle again is slim to none...
Yakoya's already figured out our plan.
No can do Akiyama
How's that sound?
KU KU KU
I didn't say anything about having one of you three carry the money for us...
We'll be the ones to carry it!
You guys can't transfer any money!! I'm tellin ya, no can do!!
You need one of our country's cards to be able to do that in the first place!
!!
I have ta return the card to Yakoya the second I get back!
D-Don't even think about it!!
Did I ask to keep your card at all?


I want to duplicate that card
and return the fake one to Yokoya.
!?
!?
Y-You can... do that!?
D-Don't tell me, you're gonna screw up this card and make them issue a new one!?
Oh, you read my mind!
No frig- gin' way !!
I can't give the card back to him in two pieces!!
Woah, woah, I never said I was going to slice it up
Even scratching up the card's gonna be clear as day!!
Yokoya's too careful to fall for that!!
Relax.
I won't put a single scratch on it.
I can ruin that card in a way you can't tell by looking.

by using THIS.
I ripped out the largest one we had on the Southern Country's side and brought it with me.
Yep.
The hell? A speaker !?
?
Good. The powerful magnetic field will effectively corrupt the data stored on the card.
Like this?
Take your card and try rubbing it hard against it
See, speakers have a powerful permanent magnet attached to 'em.
and that card's data is toast!
Keep it up for just two to three more minutes

Ah—!!
So THAT'S why I got a call about the Southern Country's speakers!!
Akiyama's the one who ruined it—!?
KU KU KU
In the time that you were checking on the sound system, Nearco,
you happened to miss that conversation!
knew but didn't say a word!
I didn't really think what Akiyama suggested would work, but when I went up to a nearby employee after the turn ended and showed him the card..
You say the card's not working?
Please wait a moment
A few minutes later
Please accept our apeleglies The data was indeed corrupted
!!
We printed you out a new card so please, use this one.
... Say WHAT!?
You mean you gave the messed-up card to Yokoya
and the working one to Akiyama!?
You got it.


"Pretend to accept his plan, and instead of depositing the 1.8 billion, bring it straight to our Country..." like that.
I'd like you to go as our team's next smuggler... and also
Before, Yokoya gave Akagi these instruc-
tions,

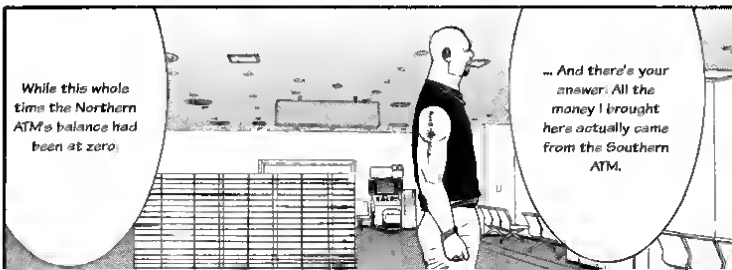
(TAKEN FROM CH52 PAGE 6 FIRST TWO PANELS)

HUU UUH I?
HUH?
He made it seem like some unpredictable accident had happened, saying, "They're not telling me where they hid their card!"
But Akagi's little act was amazing.

Akiyama then recorded a revised strategy for us to follow
Later, he explained what happened to Akiyama.

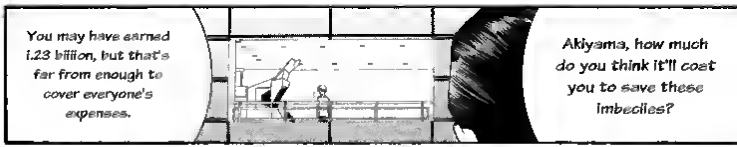
The catch is, I wasn't using the South's card to do it..
IT'S A BIG SUCCESS!
I picked up the card from the place he said, withdrew the money, and carried it on to the Northern Country
The next turn, I was supposed to obey Yakuya's instructions, but in reality carry out Akiyama's plan.

so that I could access the Southern Country's ATM!
I was using the released card, our country's card,


While this whole time the Northern ATM's balance had been at zero.
... And there's your answer. All the money I brought here actually came from the Southern ATM.

you went and duplicated that card...!?
When we least expected it.
I can't believe it.!
... Tell me,
how much did you all sell us out for?
Sorry, but it's your funeral.
... Got all that, Yokoya?
!!
NORTHERN COUNTRY
The deal was that the Southern Country would pay all the money required to zero our debts and set us free from the LIAR GAME.
You bought into such a stupid offer like that?
You people are too much!
What's so funny?
KU KU KU
KUH ...

HAAAAAAA AAHAHAHA! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE FROM THE BEGINNING!!
They'll zero your debts and pay your way out!?

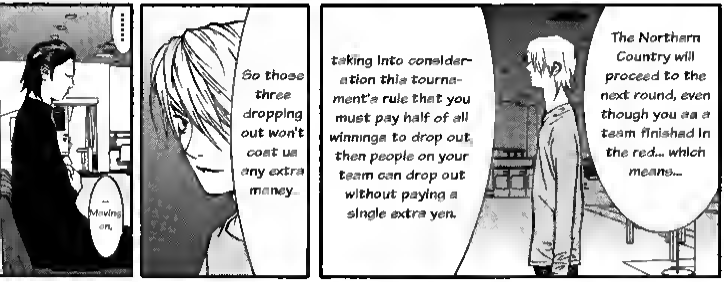

You may have earned 1.23 billion, but that's far from enough to cover everyone's expenses.
Akiyama, how much do you think it'll cost you to save these imbeciles?

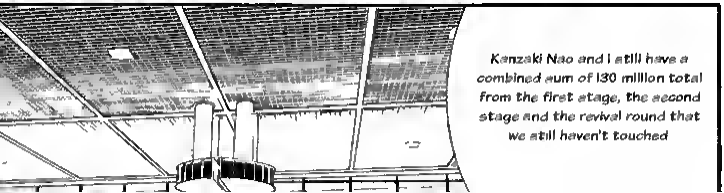
Then on top of that, you have my team's three...
Just to save the seven on your team will cost you 700 million.
You and Kanzaki excluded, everyone in your team is 100 million yen in debt
I heard your situation from Kikuzawa

Your pitiful 1.23 billion is a far cry from being able to save everyone!!
Each one of them is 200 million in debt, a total of 600 million!

No, we can.

Huh?
.....

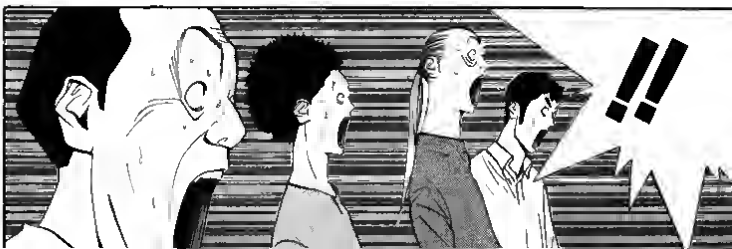

...Moving on.
So those three dropping out won't cost us any extra money.
taking into consideration this tournament's rule that you must pay half of all winnings to drop out, then people on your team can drop out without paying a single extra yen.
The Northern Country will proceed to the next round, even though you as a team finished in the red... which means...


Kenzaki Nao and I still have a combined sum of 130 million total from the first stage, the second stage and the revival round that we still haven't touched

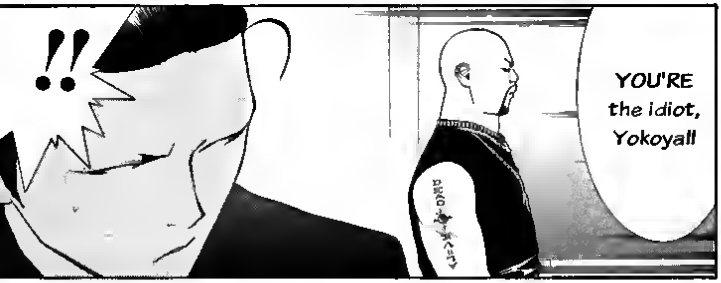
Putting it all together, it's enough to save everyone.
!!
No.
That's still insufficient!
Look, it IS enough, Yokoya.
!?
Your calculations cannot possibly cover this amount
Even a rough estimate is around 6- no, 700 million.
They now have an additional debt incurred from this Contraband Game.
The 600 million I spoke of was the total debt they accumulated up until the Revival Round.
but the fact is..
Well, I admit I had to ask an LGT employee to find out,
Did you know..

right after this third stage, there will be another Revival Round.
... Your point?
.....
!!
... But
As you are well aware, players have to pay back 400 million at the end of this game to the LGT office.
and use that extra 800 million to pay off these three's debt.
Kanzaki Nao and I will postpone paying back our shares

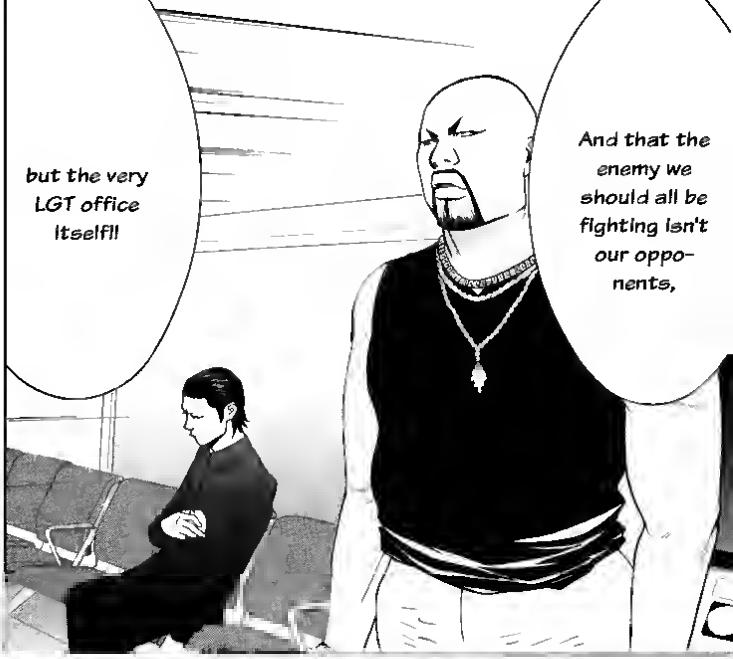
in other words, the two of us
will take on a debt of 400 million yen each, and continue on into the next Revival Round!!


!!

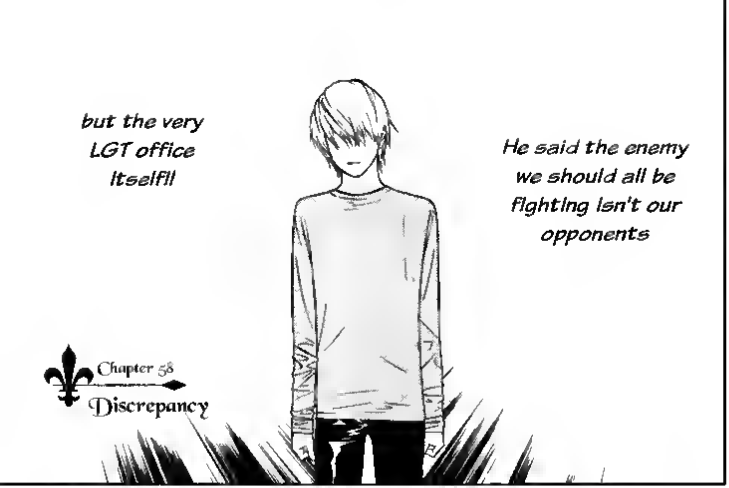
HA! ARE YOU COMPLETE IDIOTS OR WHAT!?
ONLY A FOOL WOULD DO SOMETHING THAT STUPID BY CHOICE!!


!!
YOU'RE the idiot, Yokoya!!

It's because these two said they want to save everyone, even if it meant sacrificing themselves!
Why do you think we even agreed to help their team?


And that the enemy we should all be fighting isn't our opponents,
but the very LGT office itself!!

Yokoya... you're completely out of their league...

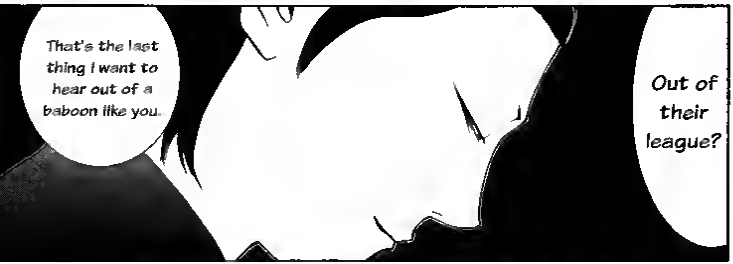

but the very LGT office itself!!
He said the enemy we should all be fighting isn't our opponents
Chapter 58
Discrepancy

Yokoya, you're completely out of their league...

KU KU KU!
KU!

You people
ARE just as stupid as I said!
Chapter 58
Discrepancy

KU KU KU...
Stupid!?
NORTHERN COUNTRY
...S-

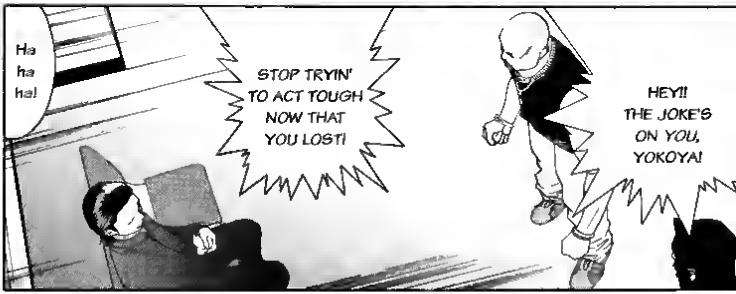

That's the last thing I want to hear out of a baboon like you.
Out of their league?

!!
!!

do you honestly intend on shouldering such debt?
Mr Akiyama,

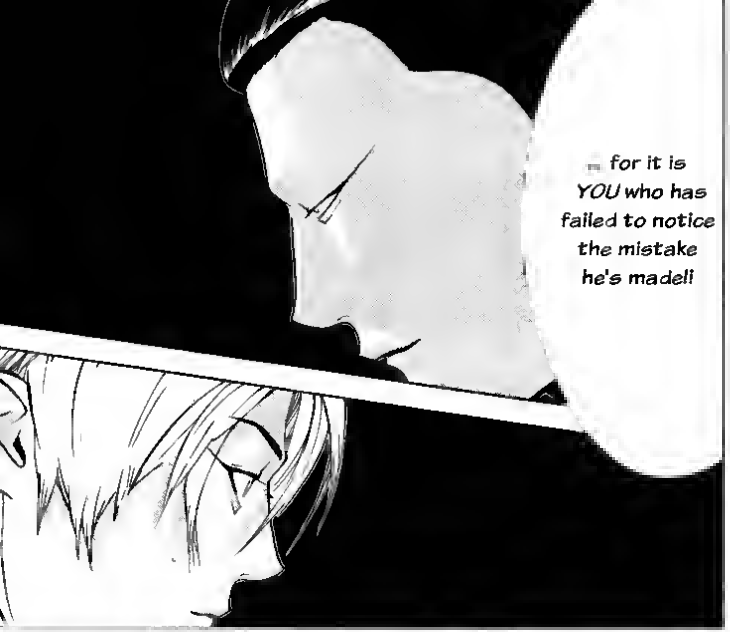
KU KU KU...
Yes
endeavor to fight against the LGT office?
Do you truly
Yea
.....

You're far more foolish than I imagined.
How unexpected.


Ha ha ha!
STOP TRYIN' TO ACT TOUGH NOW THAT YOU LOST!
HEY!! THE JOKE'S ON YOU, YOKOYA!

KUKUKU... It's as they say, one can't see the forest for the trees.
You just told me that I had made a huge mistake.

Mr. Akiyama.. do you think you've really won?


...for it is YOU who has failed to notice the mistake he's made!!

KU KU KU
He's just bluffing
How ...?!
screwed up..?
Akiyama...
And now——
we will announce the totals of each player's individual earnings!
Coming up first are the members of the Southern Country
If I may direct your attention to the electronic displays right in front of you

Kenzaki Nao

1億30518万

(130,516,000)

Akiyama Shinichi

4億22093万

(422,903,000)

Kitamura Hiroto

4億72093万

(472,093,000)

Eda Teruyuki

4億72093万

(472,093,000)

Kikuzawa Takehiro

10億62093万

(1,062,093,000)

Satou Tetauzou

6億33768万

(633,768,000)

Tsunoda Kousuke

4億87988万

(487,988,000)

Fukunaga Yuuji

6億72093万

(672,903,000)

Fujita Shingo

4億72093万

(472,903,000)

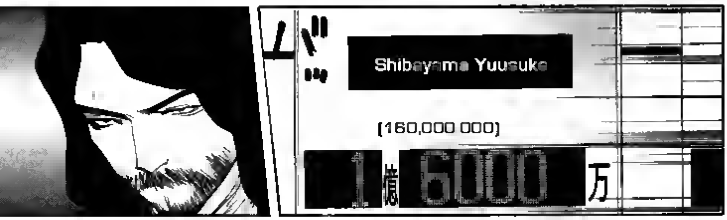
though our profits will go to the three from the Northern Country, as we agreed

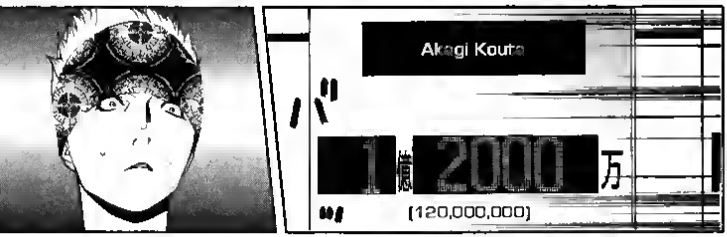
Like I said, our team dreamed 'em...

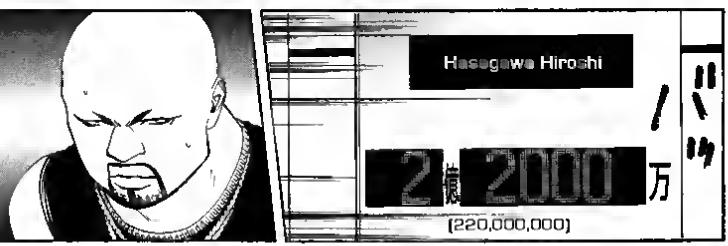
we have the individual earnings for each member of the Northern Country.

Up next

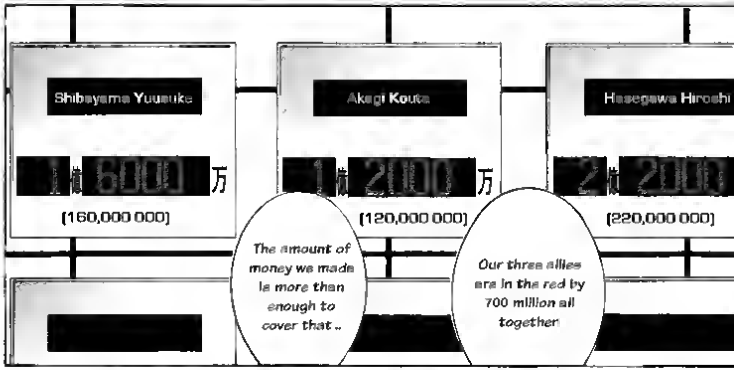
If I may again direct your attention to the electronic displays straight ahead


Shibeyama Yuusuke
[160,000,000]
1億6000万

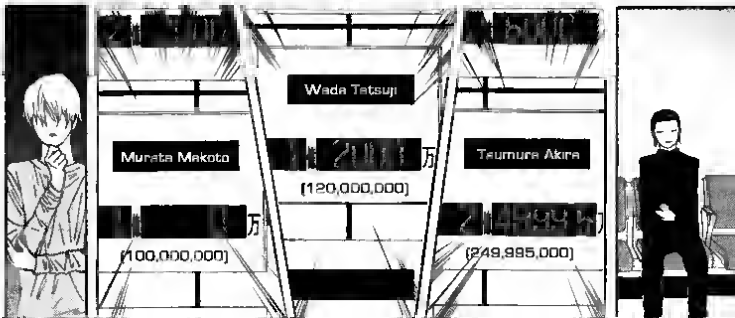

Akagi Kouta
1億2000万
[120,000,000]


Hasegawa Hiroshi
2億2000万
[220,000,000]

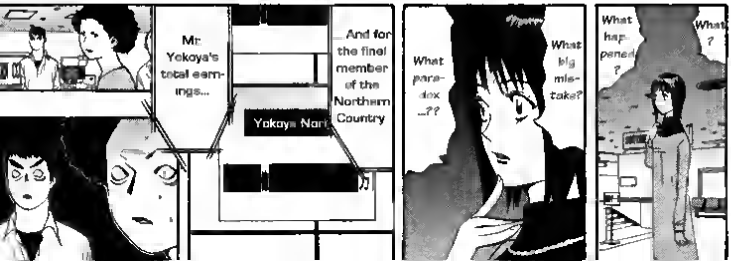
So far, nothing looks out of place...
What could Mr. Akiyama have possibly missed?
SOUTHERN

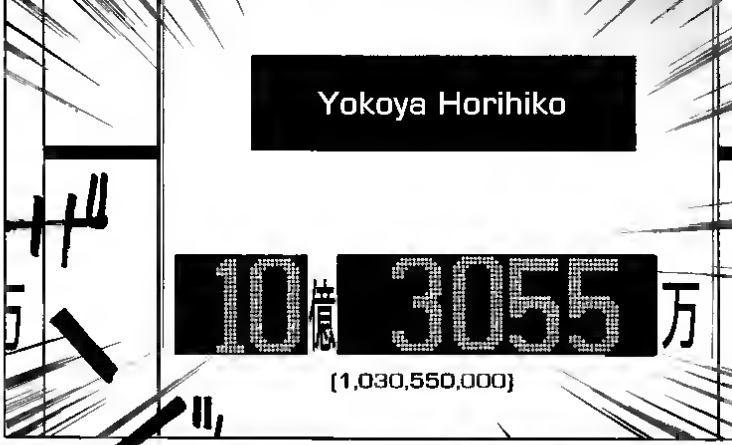

Shibayama Yuusuke
1億600万
(160,000,000)
Akagi Kouta
1億2000万
(120,000,000)
Hasegawa Hiroshi
2億2000
(220,000,000)
The amount of money we made is more than enough to cover that..
Our three allies are in the red by 700 million all together

What mistake has Mr. Akiyama made?
So what could it be...?


Wada Tetsuji
(120,000,000)
Murata Makoto
(100,000,000)
Tsumura Akira
(249,995,000)

That look says it all!
KU KU KU
the grand paradox lurking within your noble-sounding statement that "the LGT Office is the enemy!"
Not only have you discovered the huge mistake you've made,
but also


Mr. Yokoya's total earnings...
...And for the final member of the Northern Country
Yokoya Nan
What paradox ...??
What big mistake?
What happened?
What?


Yokoya Horihiko
10億3055万
{1,030,550,000}

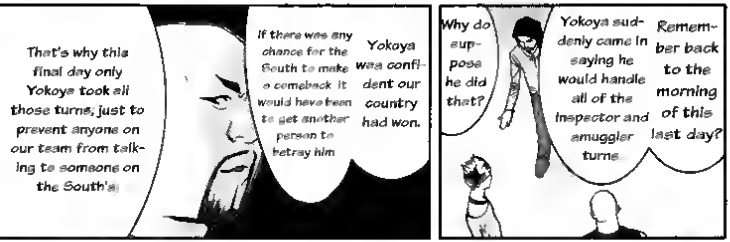
HE'S GOT OVER 1 BIL-LION!?!
WHAAA AAAT?!? THE HELL'S WITH HIS SCORE!?!?!

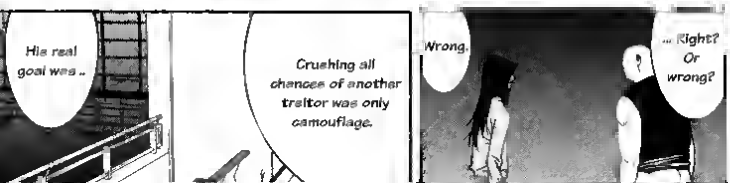
!!

HE'S THE ONLY ONE WITH A BANK ACCOUNT THAT BLOWS FAST 1 BILLION!?!
I don't believe this
that should've only amounted to 400-500 million, no??
That's right... on the first day, he was inspector for a long time. I thought he had made more than us, but..
Yokoya's the only one... who walks away with a fortune!?!

HAAA Aaaa aa
HAHA HA
HAAAAaa aaaHA-HAHA

AH! THAT'S RIGHT...
THAT'S what he was after ...
... After what ...?


Remember back to the morning of this last day?
Yokoya suddenly came in saying he would handle all of the inspector and smuggler turns.
Why do suppose he did that?
Yokoya was confident our country had won.
If there was any chance for the South to make a comeback it would have been to get another person to betray him
That's why this final day only Yokoya took all those turns, just to prevent anyone on our team from talking to someone on the South's


... Right? Or wrong?
Wrong.
Crushing all chances of another traitor was only camouflage.
His real goal was ..

to get money into his bank account.

!?

So to prepare for the worst-case scenario, he acted to guarantee that at least he'd be the one to make money
"My victory seems certain, but maybe there's some kind of trap waiting for me.." he thought.
Yokoya probably sensed it

And THIS is the aftermath!!
10億3055

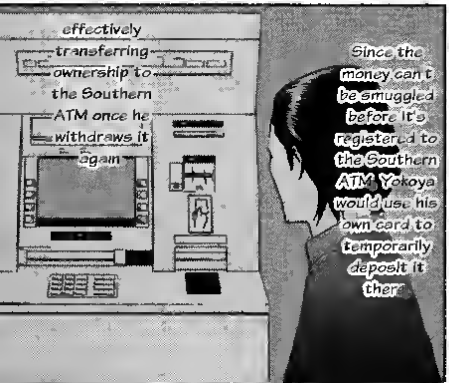
Had the 1.1 billion that was carried to our side still belonged to us, everybody would've gotten about 200 million per person... at most that would've been an extra 300 million in his account.
I think somebody just said it, but the most he could have had was 500 million.
There's no way Yokoya had this much money by the end of day two.
to stuff his outside bank account past 1 billion.
So what he did was use this final day in a way no one would notice
?
Maetar Yokoya!! At this rate, we'll lose!!
You probably remember the conversation from this afternoon...
—Okay, but how...?
There's an incredibly simple way to break the deadlock.
KU KU KU
And in the end, the game'll end just like it stands now!
It's going to be nothing but a back-and-forth game of "pass."

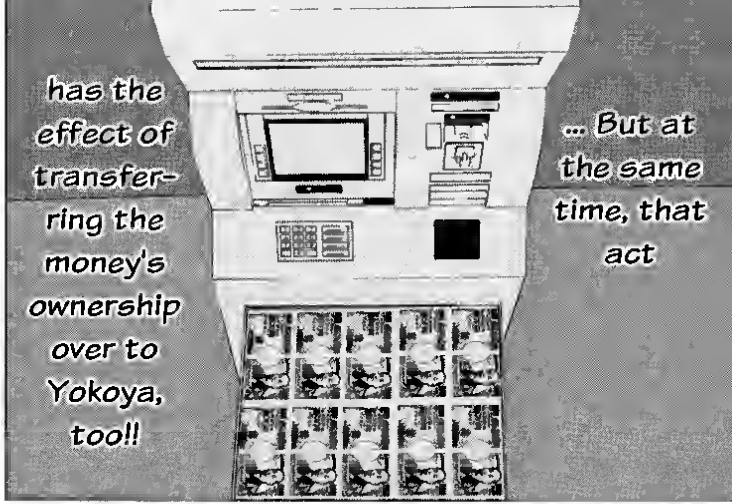
I'll simply fill a trunk with 100 million and smuggle it on our turn.
I'm not stupid enough to fall for that.
Smuggling only works when we take money from the Southern ATM and carry it to our country!! It'll cause an error!
Wait! We can't do that!! Isn't this money registered to the Northern ATM!?
This procedure will ensure that the money is switched from the Northern Country's to the Southern Country's ownership
Thereafter I'll immediately withdraw that same 100 million.
Before I smuggle the money, I'll stop by and deposit it in the Southern ATM temporarily
...That makes sense!
The Southern inspector will fall into confusion from this unexpected event, and I'll be able to break our current stalemate.
!!! then take that money with me to the inspection

All of us were too busy worrying about how to break the stalemate that we didn't see it
And with Yokoya's unhesitant, eloquent explanation, we were quick to accept it.
That's why

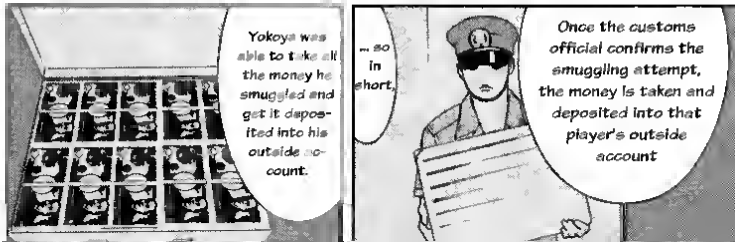
we completely overlooked
the terrible trap that he hid with his words.

!!
!!

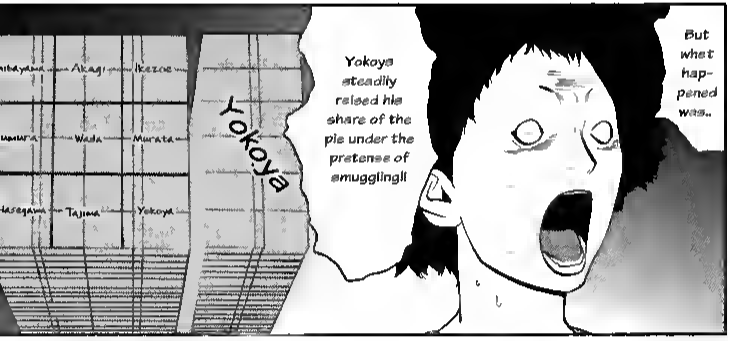

effectively transferring ownership to the Southern ATM once he withdraws it again
Since the money can't be smuggled before it's registered to the Southern ATM, Yokoya would use his own card to temporarily deposit it there
Think back to Yokoya's explanation
... Trap ..? What trap?


has the effect of transfer-ring the money's ownership over to Yokoya, too!!
... But at the same time, that act

You finally got it.
AAAAA AAAAAH !!!


Yokoya was able to take all the money he smuggled and get it deposited into his outside account.
... so in short,
Once the customs official confirms the smuggling attempt, the money is taken and deposited into that player's outside account

Shirayama
Akagi
Ikezoe
Tsumura
Wada
Murata
Hasegawa
Tajima
Yokoya
Everybody's share of the money brought to the Northern Country
We all felt like we were guaranteed an extra 200 million.
The reason was because that money would've been divided equally among the team after the game was over.
were lured by a feeling of security once that 1.8 billion was carried here.
So the other eight of us..


Akagi
Ikezoe
Wada
Murata
Tajima
Yokoya
Yokoya steadily raised his share of the pie under the pretense of smuggling!!
But what happened was..

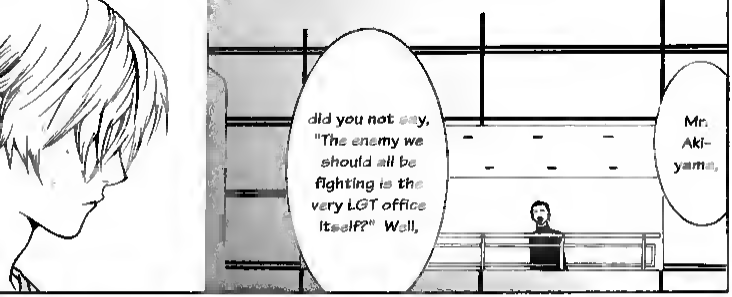
Yokoya
So Yokoya was the only one to get any of it in the end!!
And that's not all... that money had actually been the South's all along.

YOU SAID IT!!
HAAAa aaaaa HAHA

Do you not see who the REAL winner is!?
Mr. Akiyama! Take a long, hard look at this situation!

You failed to win any amount of money!!
But that's all!! ZERO!!
True, your Southern Country has enough money to zero their debts and escape this game.

I am the ONLY ONE who did!!
Out of all 18 players here...
The same thing goes for the three fools who assisted you.
So who was it that profited from this game?


did you not say, "The enemy we should all be fighting is the very LGT office itself?" Well,
Mr. Akiyama,

you contradict yourself!!

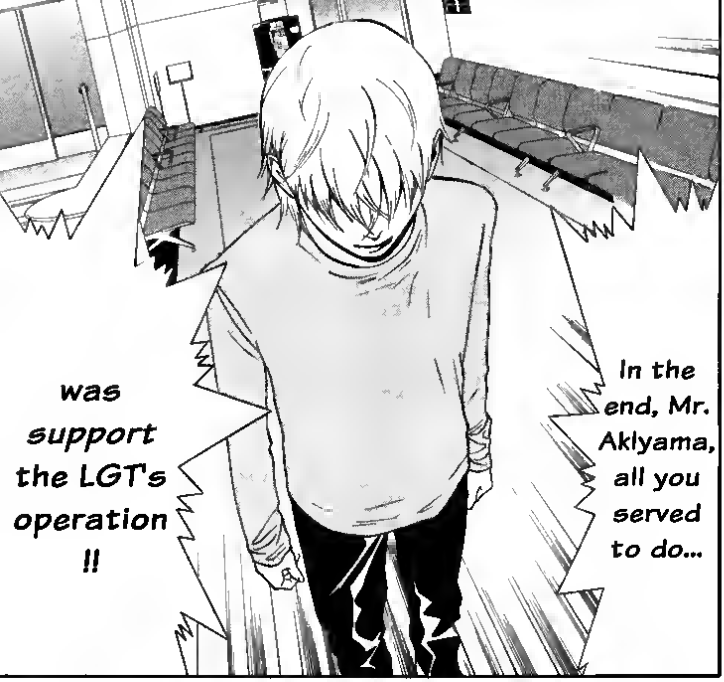
this "Contraband Game" ended in your complete and utter defeat!!
Because if the real enemy here is the company running this game... then that means
.....

From their point of view, that's the worst possible outcome.
If everyone shares their losses and no one drops out, the LGT office doesn't make a single yen.
The LIAR GAME is in essence a Zero-Sum game.

The reason why, of course, is that having made so much profit, those winners are guaranteed to drop out to secure their earnings!
But looking at the other extreme, they would like nothing more than to have winners who come out by a long shot, leaving many, many losers behind!

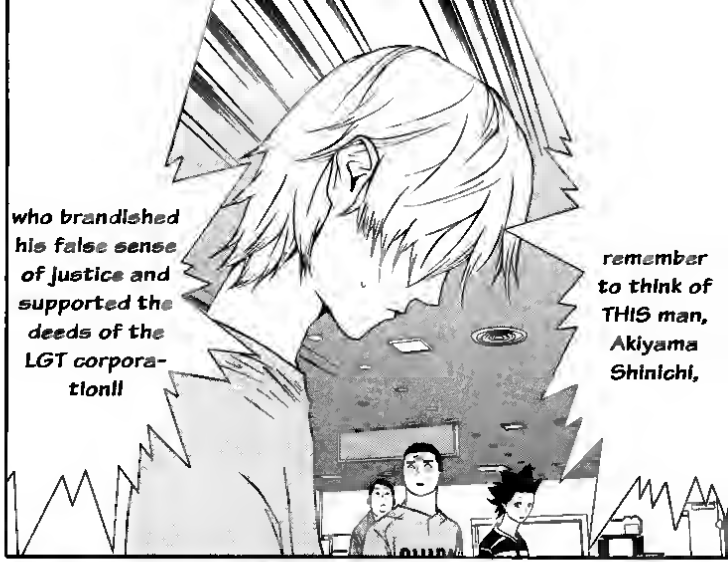
you should NEVER have allowed me to win any money ----!!
if you're so insistant on stopping the LGT Offices,

That fee they charge when someone drops out is exactly how the LGT offices make a profit.
... Which means,


In the end, Mr. Akiyama, all you served to do...
was support the LGT's operation !!

and try to figure out who cornered you into the mess you're in...
When you take a look at the big picture

Hear this, gentlemen of the Northern Country, who're now steeped in horrendous debt worse than ever before!!
I'm sure you're seething with resentment and are unsure where to direct it, so let me say one thing!

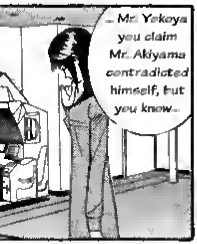

who brandished his false sense of justice and supported the deeds of the LGT corporation!!
remember to think of THIS man, Akiyama Shinichi,

this man Yokoya
Though he clearly lost the match

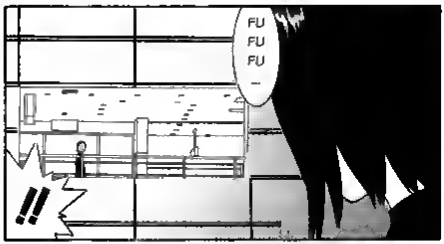
Incredible
KU KU KU

NORTHERN COUNTRY

to make it seem that he was the true victor!
has twisted the entire atmosphere


– Mr. Yokoya you claim Mr. Akiyama contradicted himself, but you know–

What is it?


FU FU FU –
!!

Huh !?

!!
Say whatever you like, but the fact is

you've completely contradicted yourself as well.

Now for some ramblings...
by shrimpy

Yet again, we're given a dose of game theory. Wikipedia ftw!

First, Zero-sum
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zero-sum_game

Zero-sum is a situation where losses and gains are exactly offset by other players (so the sum is zero). One example given is cutting a cake: if you get a bigger piece, somebody gets a smaller one. That's why such games are called conflict games, or "strictly competitive." If players all gain or all lose, this is non-zero sum, and by nature is non-competitive.

Yokoya basically gave us a nice summary of the concept in the chapter, when he said that the LIAR GAME is a system where the organizers profit most from creating big winners and lots of losers, going right back to the cake example above.

So how will Akiyama manage to save everyone, without having a single player pay to drop out? We'll have to wait and see...

And now about Chicken:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicken_(game)

You might remember about 2 volumes ago Akiyama called the Contraband a game of chicken. I'm guessing most people know what that is but just in case, here's a bit of background on that.

The game of Chicken is an "influential model of conflict." It's a game where both players refuse to yield, but eventually somebody has to, or both will face the worst possible outcome. This is a key game theory in biology, politics, science, and economics. It's represented in many forms, primarily the "Hawk-Dove" game, which is about a competition for resources (somebody's gotta eat). And if you payed attention in history class, you might remember the cold-war era "mutual assured destruction" fears of a nuclear holocaust.

Another amusing example is "schedule chicken." This happens ALL THE TIME! Say you're in a team who's trying to deliver a product, and one division of the team is behind schedule. You know if this project is important enough, and you're behind, you risk being fired. So what do you do? Blame somebody else for it! If you're programming the software you might pass the hold-up to someone in network services who didn't install a database. They in turn blame somebody from QC who's missing a vendor upgrade. Etc! The point is people fear delivering bad news and will find every which way to avoid it, passing around the hot potato as it were.

This game is very similar to the other game we already saw, the prisoner's dilemma, back in chapter 50. The mutual solution where both players try to cooperate is very unstable since it is the worst outcome and other alternatives are very tempting.

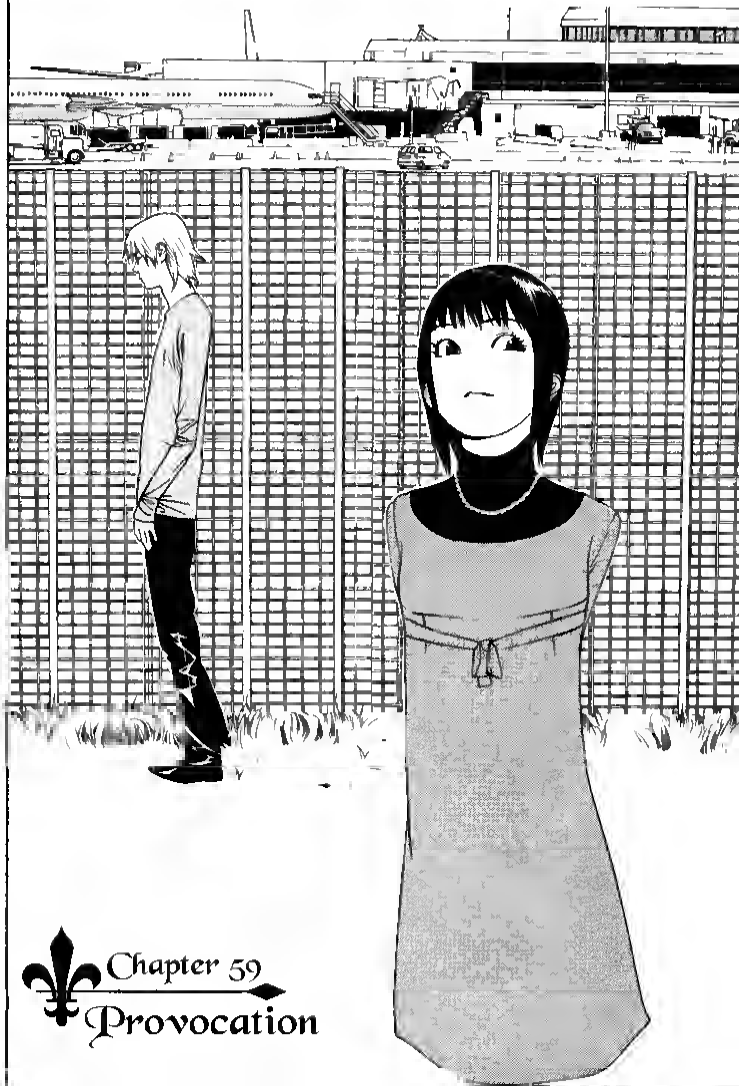
Anyway, the correlation to the Contraband Game should be clear--nobody wanted to carry money because it meant possibly losing money. But if no one carries money, no one makes a profit, and that's even worse since they've all got debts.

Yokoya read the obvious situation--everyone's scared out of their wits to go into more debt--and went right on the offensive. Good thing the South had Akiyama!

See ya next chap!

YOU'RE the real loser in this game!
WHAT?
!!

YOU'RE the real loser in this game!
...But even you, Mr. Yokoya, have completely contradicted yourself!!
Chapter 59
Provocation
!?

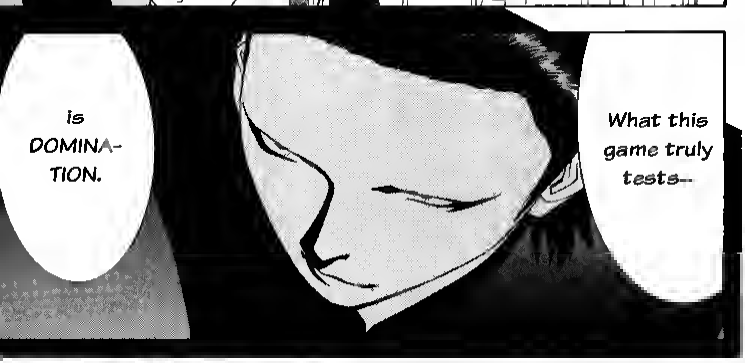


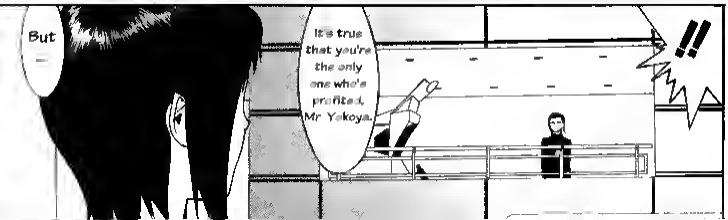
Chapter 59
Provocation

have I possibly lost?
In what way

Where have I contradicted myself?
Hah... What nonsense...

... Since it's clear that an idiot like you will be eliminated in this round, let me tell you something good
The first time we met in the customs office, we had a conversation in which you said..
Mr. Yokoya, do you remember?

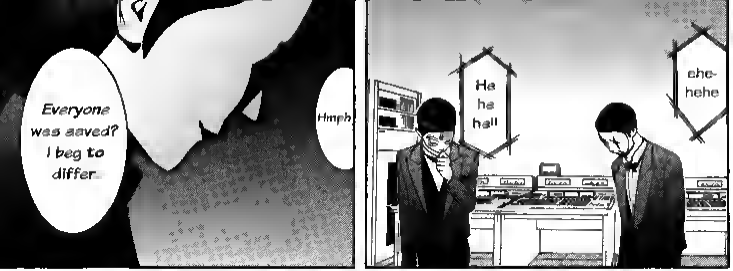

is DOMINATION.
What this game truly tests--


But --
It's true that you're the only one who's profited, Mr. Yokoya.
!!

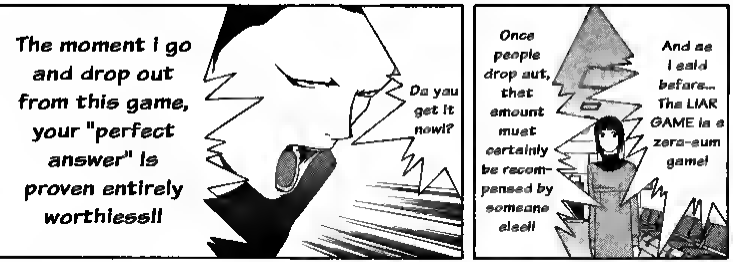
Was this result...
all brought about by the domination you spoke of?
Ngh. !
Because the only thing I see is a result brought about by crafty tricks you used to steal other people's money.
!!
I'm not so sure you ever had control of your team in the first place.
In fact, there were even three traitors on your team
And look what happened! The people obedient to you suffered losses,
while the ones who broke away from your control were saved!

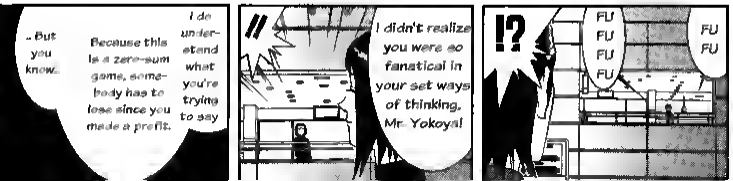
When you consider this outcome,
who could possibly agree with you in saying that dominating others is the true object of the LIAR GAME!?
Do you remember what my answer was? It went like this...
Wanting to make a personal fortune, wanting to only help yourself...
If everyone can only rid themselves of such ideas, then everyone can be saved! The Liar Game is all about realizing that fact!!
At the very least, I was able to stick to my words
True, there was a moment when our team nearly fell apart, but through earnest, heartfelt persuasion, everyone willingly agreed to pursue a path where no one profits, but everyone survives!!

Everyone who endorsed my idea stands here, saved!!
And my plan WORKED!!
That's why...
Every one of them will tell you that I am right!!
Go ahead and ask the 10 people who are a part of this result!
You LOST the contest with me!!
Even though you may have made big money, Mr. Yokoya,


Everyone was saved? I beg to differ.
Hmph
Ha ha ha!!
che-hehe

Each of you is in the red by 400 million yen!! That doesn't sound the slightest bit like "saved" to me!!
Surely you haven't neglected the most important part: what happens to you and Akiyama!!


The moment I go and drop out from this game, your "perfect answer" is proven entirely worthless!!
Do you get it now!?
Once people drop out, that amount must certainly be recompensed by someone else!!
And as I said before... The LIAR GAME is a zero-sum game!


...But you know...
Because this is a zero-sum game, somebody has to lose since you made a profit.
I do understand what you're trying to say
I didn't realize you were so fanatical in your set ways of thinking, Mr. Yokoya!
!?
FU FU FU FU
FU FU

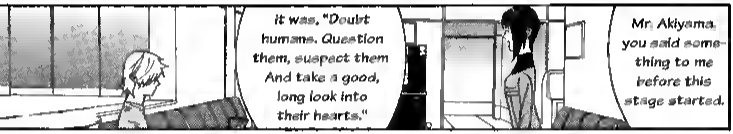
There's a way to completely topple that notion of yours.
!!
You're only going to drop out and leave the tournament anyway
There's no need for me to tell you, Mr. Yokoya
H-How!? What is it!?!
In the end, both myself and Mr. Akiyama will save everyone!
All you guys on the Northern side can relax,
because I promise we'll come to save you too!

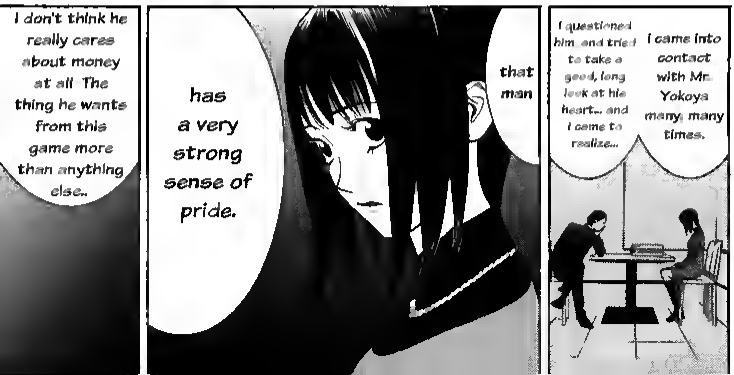
You lost because you abandoned your conviction that "domination is everything" and instead obsessed yourself with the petty thought of making money!!
we won for sticking to our convictions right down to the end!
In summary,
That's all I have to say to you, Mr Yokoya
...
the Contraband Game came to its close.
Thus,
How dare you sink us into deeper debt!!
You're not leaving yet Yokoya!
Would players please make your way to the counter so we may begin the process?
If I may have your attention, we will now be paying out your prizes in cash

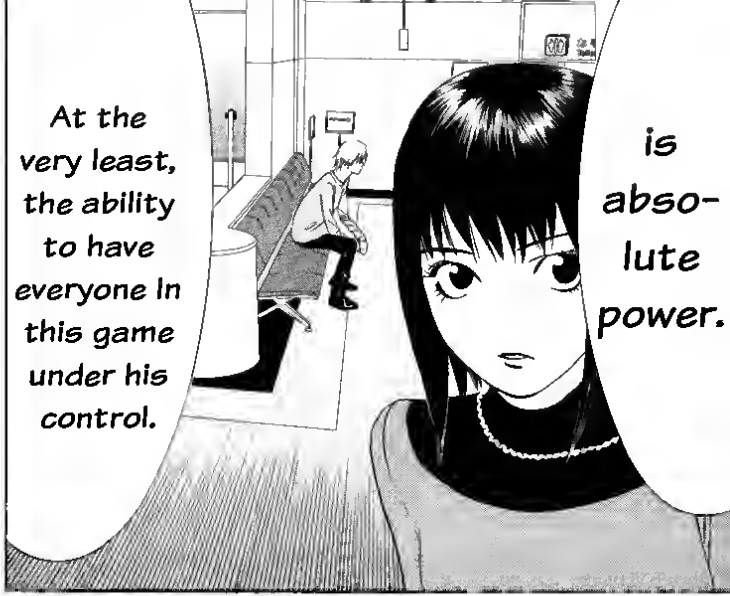
SCRE
ECCCC
SCRE
ECCC
E-EEEE
EEKIII
Hey... thanks.
You really told off Yokoya back there.
Eh?
Ah.. oh...
te hehe
By the way about that thing you said, the way to topple this zero-sum game.. What exactly is it?
Oh. that?

I was only bluffing!
It was all a lie.

EH?
.....


it was, "Doubt humans. Question them, suspect them And take a good, long look into their hearts."
Mr. Akiyama, you said something to me before this stage started.

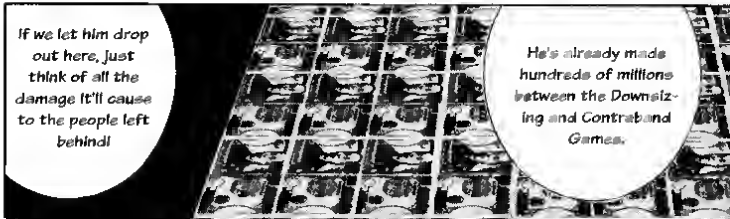

I don't think he really cares about money at all. The thing he wants from this game more than anything else..
has a very strong sense of pride.
that man
I questioned him and tried to take a good, long look at his heart... and I came to realize...
I came into contact with Mr. Yokoya many, many times.


At the very least, the ability to have everyone in this game under his control.
is abso-lute power.

That's why I believe my words to him will definitely
Defeat is the very last thing a man as proud as him is willing to admit

That's why I intentionally said those things to deeply offend him

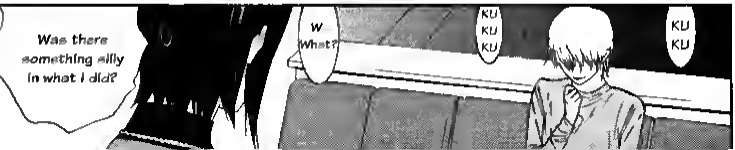
bring him back for another round.


If we let him drop out here, just think of all the damage it'll cause to the people left behind!
He's already made hundreds of millions between the Downsizing and Contraband Games.

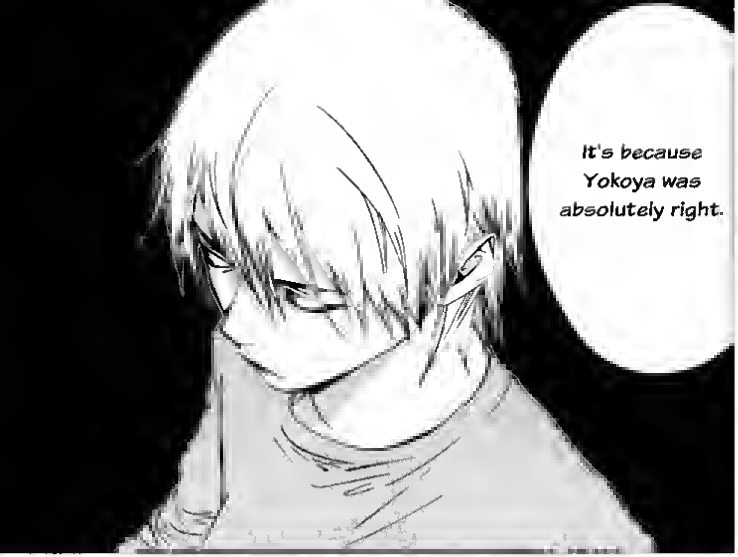
But if we can get him back into this game,
if we can confront him one more time
and take back that money he took from others,

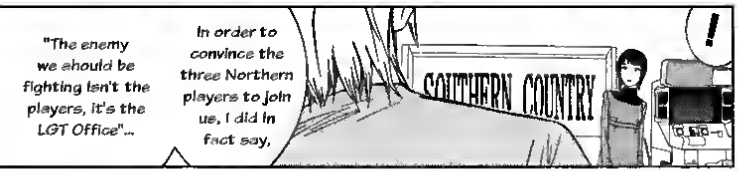
it can pave the way to save lots and lots of more people!!

So that's the reason
you deliberately provoked him?
Yes.

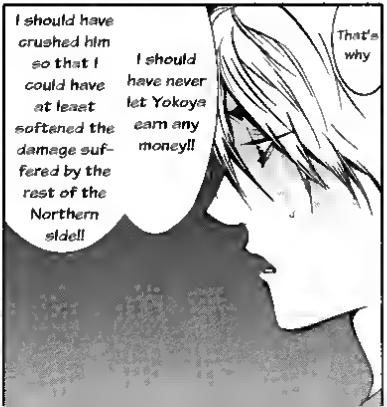

KU KU
KU KU KU
W What?
Was there something silly in what I did?

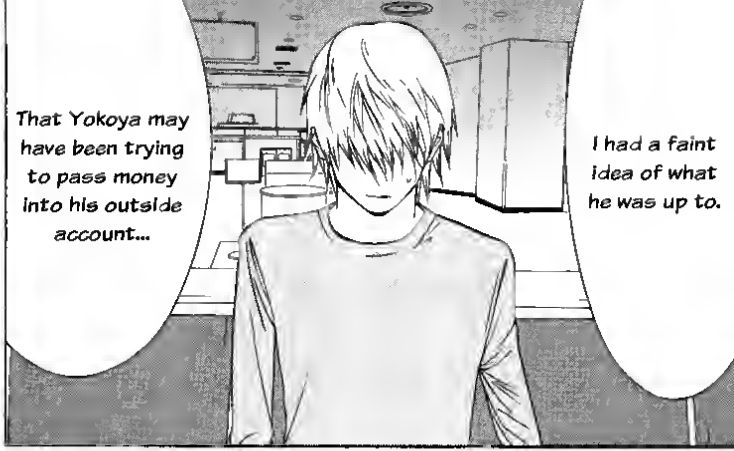
You've...
really gotten stronger.
I have to admit
you really helped me out this time.
And yet, even when Yokoya hurled those insults, blaming me for being contradictory,
I couldn't speak up at all to defend myself.
Do you know why?
.....

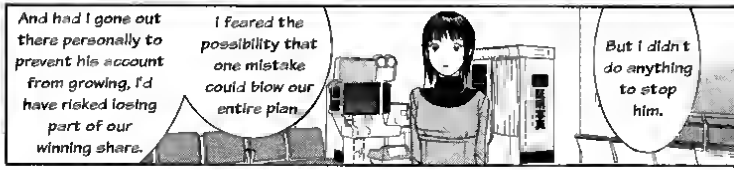

It's because Yokoya was absolutely right.


"The enemy we should be fighting isn't the players, it's the LGT Office"...
In order to convince the three Northern players to join us, I did in fact say,
SOUTHERN COUNTRY
!

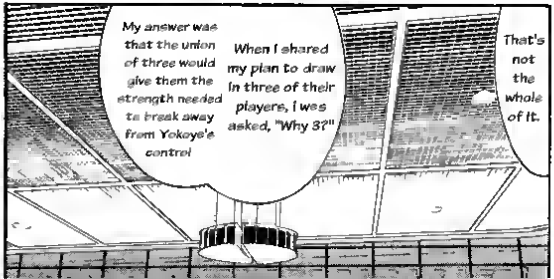
Yokoya put together a makeshift plan no one could possibly have noticed to increase his winnings!
But that's not your fault!
No.


I should have crushed him so that I could have at least softened the damage suffered by the rest of the Northern side!!
I should have never let Yokoya earn any money!!
That's why


That Yokoya may have been trying to pass money into his outside account...
I had a faint idea of what he was up to.


And had I gone out there personally to prevent his account from growing, I'd have risked losing part of our winning share.
I feared the possibility that one mistake could blow our entire plan.
But I didn't do anything to stop him.

And I let the bastard do as he pleased!!
I pretended not to see anything...


My answer was that the union of three would give them the strength needed to break away from Yokoya's control
When I shared my plan to draw in three of their players, I was asked, "Why 3?"
That's not the whole of it.

Mr Akiyame...

But that
was far from my true intentions.

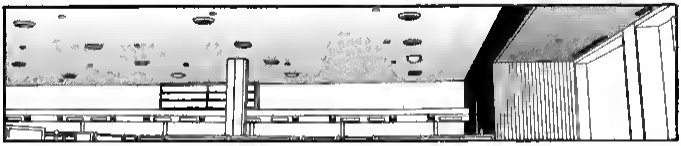
!?
With three people, two serve as a protection should one start to take suspicious actions...
This three-way standoff keeps them all in a state of tension.

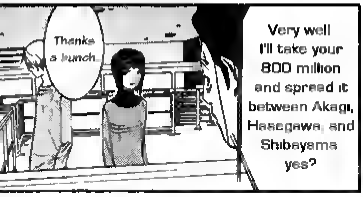
If you consider the very base of my motivation,
I'm hardly any different from Yokoya!!

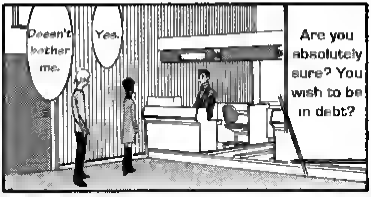
What I'm saying is I merely used that group of three!
I never intended to trust any of them from the start.
I'm not too sure what those guys think of me, but...

And that's why he was mocking me!!
Yokoya knew that!! He saw through that!!
You're...
Mr. Akiyama... You're wrong...
No...
For the first time, Mr. Akiyama had openly showed the darkness of his heart, and I could not bear such sadness.
One after the other, tears streamed down my cheeks.
And through all of this, his conscience persisted to condemn him, torturing him incessantly.
Having faced the death of his dear mother, having waged a long war against the scandalous group responsible... Mr. Akiyama's dark past had made him lose hope in people, unable to trust in anyone...

I was overcome by sadness...
Sadness because I couldn't do a single thing to ease his suffering...




Very well. I'll take your 800 million and spread it between Akagi, Hasegawa, and Shibayama. yes?
Thanks a bunch.

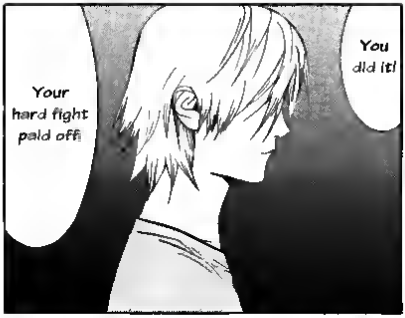

Are you absolutely sure? You wish to be in debt?
Yes.
Doesn't bother me.

Okay, I'll make the needed arrangements.
Ohhh! That's right! I have something to tell you.

I take it you also wish to continue on into the next Revival Round?
Pleased!

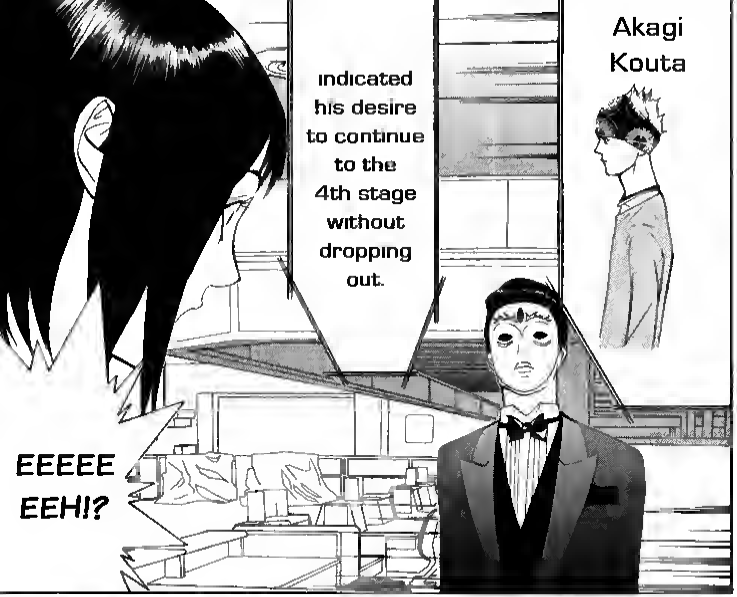
did not apply to drop out.
Yokoya Norihiko

!!
He will continue directly to the 4th stage.


You did it!
Your hard fight paid off!

MR. AKI-YAMAAA !!!

!?
And there's another


Akagi Kouta
indicated his desire to continue to the 4th stage without dropping out.
EEEEE EEH!?

I'm going to get back that 200 million I lost all by myself, so put me in for the next stage!"
"Seeing those two sacrifice themselves just to save other players, that really got to me.

This is what he had to say
W-WHY I?

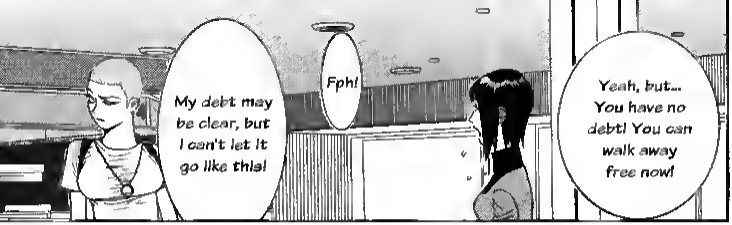
See?
People really can believe in one other if we keep trying!

Did you hear that Mr. Akiyama!?

There's still someone else...!?
Eh?
There was one more
Ah, yes...

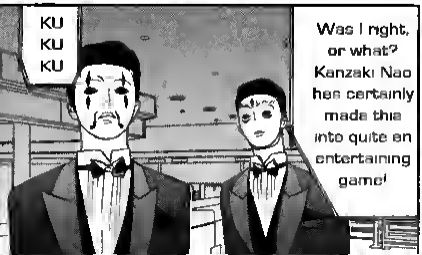
EEEEEE
EEEEEE
EEEEEE
EEEEEE
EEHI?!
Fukunaga Yuuji registered to participate in the upcoming Revival Round.

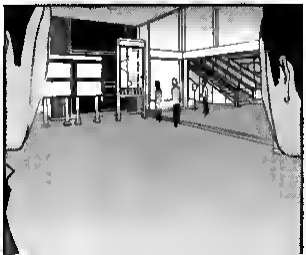
Oh come on! Get that stupid look off your face!
Why... would he...?
... Why?
Is that any way to treat your pal, who just fought with you through one of the roughest games ever!?


My debt may be clear, but I can't let it go like this!
Fph!
Yeah, but... You have no debt! You can walk away free now!

I'm playing this game until I rip every last yen outta that damn bastard Yokoya's hands!!

What was that thing about believing in each other?
Hey now...
a really bad feeling about this.
...I have


KU KU KU
Was I right, or what? Kanzaki Nao has certainly made this into quite an entertaining game!



.. was it?
FUFUFU
"People can believe in one other if we keep trying."
With what this tournament holds in store, it will be interesting to see
if that girl will ever be able to speak those words again!

TO BE CONTINUED

「週刊ヤングジャンプ」H19年34号―36・37合併号、39号―43号、45号、46号に、好評掲載されたものを収録しました。

◉ヤングジャンプ・コミックス◉

LIAR GAME

6

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